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STATISTICAL ACCOUNT 000

OF THE

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

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STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

THE DISTRICT OF THE KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS, called by the inhabitants Ka Ri Khási and Ka Ri Synteng, is situated between 26° 9′ 30″ and 25° 8′ 28″ north latitude, and between 91° 9′ 0″ and 92° 51′ 30″ east longitude. It contains an approximate area of 6157 square miles, and a population, according to the Census of 1872, of 141,838 souls. The principal town and Civil Station, which is also the headquarters of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, is Shillong, situated in 25° 32′ 39″ north latitude and 91° 55′ 32″ east longitude.

BOUNDARIES.—The Khási and Jáintiá Hills District is bounded on the north by the Districts of Kámrúp and Nowgong; on the east by Northern Cáchár, the Nágá Hills District, and the Kapili river; on the south by Sylhet District; and on the west by the Gáro Hills.

JURISDICTION.—The Khási and Jáintiá Hills constitute a Political District, removed from the jurisdiction of the ordinary Criminal, Civil, and Revenue Courts, and of the offices established under the General Regulations and Acts. The administration of the country is vested in the Chief Commissioner of Assam, the Deputy-Commissioner of the Khási and Jáintiá Hills and his Assistants, and the native Chiefs, who are variously styled Siems, Wáhadádárs, Sardárs, Dollois, Pathors, and Lyngdohs. Siem, or more properly Seim, is derived from the Khási word for 'soul, life;' Wáhadádár, from the Hindu term *uhdádár*, meaning an 'officer;' Lyngdoh strictly means a 'sacrificial soothsayer,' from the Khási *ong*, 'to speak,' and *doh*, 'flesh.' The District is divided into three portions, —namely, British possessions in the Khási Hills; petty dependent

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648 631 States in the Khásí Hills; and the Jáintiá Hill country, which is wholly British. The British possessions are administered under a code specially introduced for the purpose. The Khásí dependent States consist of petty democracies, presided over by chiefs called Siems, who, though taken from one family, are appointed by election; or by head-men, such as Wáhadádárs, Sardárs, and Lyngdohs, whose offices are absolutely elective. The appointment of all these chiefs and head-men is subject to the confirmation of the British Government, which also reserves to itself the right to remove them in case of misconduct.

The British possessions in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills, which cover an aggregate area of 2160 square miles, consist of the following Fiscal Divisions:—In the Khásí Hills—(1) Jim-mang; (2) Láit-lyn-kot; (3) Láit-kroh; (4) Bái-rang, otherwise Wáh-long; (5) Long-ká-ding; (6) Máo-be-lár-kár; (7) Máo-smái; (8) Mynteng; (9) Máo-mlúh; (10) Máo-puñ-kyr-tiang; (11) Nong-jírí; (12) Nong-lyng-kin; (13) Nong-bah; (14) Nong-riát; (15) Nong-kroh; (16) Nun-niah; (17) Rám-dáit; (18) Sáit-soh-pen; (19) Tyng-riang; (20) Tyng-rong; (21) Tyr-ná; (22) Um-niuh; (23) Mar-bisu (dependency); and (24) U Ttymá. In the Jáintiá Hills—(1) Am-wi; (2) Chap-duk (Kukí); (3) Dar-rang; (4) Jowái; (5) Lang-flút; (6) Lang-soh; (7) Lá-ká-dong; (8) Myn-riang (Mikír); (9) Mul-shoi (Kukí); (10) Más-kút; (11) Myn-sáo; (12) Nong-klih; (13) Nong-fúlút; (14) Nong-thá-long; (15) Nar-pú; (16) Nar-tiang; (17) Nong-bah; (18) Nong-jyngi; (19) Ral-liang; (20) Rym-bái; (21) Sái-pung (Kukí); (22) Soh-tyn-gah; (23) Shiliang-myn-tang; (24) Sáth-pathor; and (25) Shang-púng.

The Khásí democratic States, covering an aggregate area of 3997 square miles (in some reports stated at 4490 square miles), are as follow:—Presided over by Siems—(1) Bhawál, otherwise War-bah; (2) Cherrá; (3) Khyrim; (4) Lyng-kin; (5) Maláí-soh-mat; (6) Mahárám; (7) Máriao; (8) Máo-iong; (9) Máo-syn-rám; (10) Myl-liem; (11) Nong-soh-phoh; (12) Nong-klao; (13) Nongs-pung; (14) Nong-stain; and (15) Rám-brái. Presided over by Wáhadádárs—(1) The Confederacy of Shellá. Presided over by Sardárs—(1) Dwárá Nong-tyr-men; (2) Ji-rang; (3) Máolong; (4) Máo-don; and (5) Nong-long. Presided over by Lyngdohs—(1) Lyn-iong; (2) Máo-flang; (3) Nong-lywái; and (4) Soh-iong.

648 692 The administration in the Khásí States gives to the native Chiefs independent jurisdiction in all cases, civil or criminal (except

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homicide), in which their own subjects are concerned. All cases of homicide, or matters involving disputes between people belonging to different States, are adjudicated upon by the British officers of the District. 648 692

In the British possessions, the principal sources of revenue are rents and royalties derived from mineral workings, such as lime and coal; rents of fisheries; and a house tax, which varies, according to situation and productiveness of the soil, from R. 1 to Rs. 2 or from 2s. to 4s. per house. A land tax is only levied in tracts where the Government possesses the actual proprietary right in the soil. Again, in the Khási States, the British Government, which undertakes the management of the natural products of the country, such as waste lands, coal, lime, etc., receives a half-share of the rents realized from these sources, the other half belonging to the native Chiefs. The other sources of revenue of the Chiefs are market dues, cesses levied occasionally for State purposes, and fines realized in the administration of justice. 648 651 [135]

HISTORY.—Our first knowledge of the Khási Hills dates from the time when the East India Company acquired the *diwání* of Bengal in 1765. The adjoining District of Sylhet was included in that grant; but as the hillmen had never acknowledged any subjection to the Muhammadans, so they still remained absolutely independent of the British power. However, the necessities of commerce, arising from their monopoly of the lime quarries, from which Bengal has drawn its supply from time immemorial, soon attracted European enterprise to the country. As stated in the Appendix to the Statistical Account of Sylhet, the control of the profits of the lime trade formed in early times one of the most valuable advantages attaching to the position of the official in charge of that District. It does not appear that any European had been attracted to reside in the Hills before 1826. In that year the Rájá of Nongklao entered into an agreement with certain European British subjects to allow a road to be made across the Hills, to connect the Surmá valley with Assam Proper. These Europeans took up their residence at Nongklao. Misunderstandings unfortunately arose, and, partly by the misconduct of some of their Bengálí followers, the growing discontent and apprehension were fanned into a flame. On 4th April 1829 the Khásiás rose in arms and massacred Lieutenants Bedingfield and Burlton, together with some sepoys. This led to military operations on the part of the British Government, which 175 648 [135] [487]

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175 continued through several cold seasons. The last of the Khási chiefs
648 did not tender his submission until 1833. In February 1835 Colonel Lister was appointed Political Agent in the Khási Hills, with his headquarters at Nongklao; and the command of the Sylhet Light Infantry battalion was also placed in his hands. The civil and military functions remained conjoined until 1854, when Mr. Hudson was deputed to Cherrá Púnjí, which had then become the administrative headquarters, with the title of Junior Assistant-Commissioner, shortly afterwards changed to the present one of Deputy-Commissioner.

The Jáintiá Hills came into British possession in 1835. In that year, as related in the Statistical Account of Sylhet District, the last Rájá of Jáintiá, Indra Singh, was deposed on the charge of complicity with certain of his tribesmen who had carried off three British subjects and barbarously immolated them at the shrine of Kálí. The portion of his territory that lay in the plains was forthwith annexed to the District of Sylhet; and the Rájá voluntarily resigned the hill portion, of which we also took possession. A pension of Rs. 500 a month, or £600 a year, was granted to the deposed Rájá for life, and he resided peaceably in Sylhet until
175 his death in 1861. When we first assumed the administration of
648 the Hills, no change was made in the indigenous revenue system,
651 which consisted simply of the payment of a he-goat once a year from each village. The Rájá had derived the greater portion of his income from his possessions in the plains. In 1860, however, a house tax was imposed, the highest limit of which was one rupee (2s.) per house. This measure of direct taxation was very obnoxious to the Syntengs. They formed irregular gatherings, at which they resolved to resist payment, or at least to refuse to pay except through their own hereditary Rájá, who was then alive. An outbreak took place in the early part of the year, but it was promptly suppressed; the people were disarmed, and matters went on much as usual. But the disarmament was imperfect, and it soon became evident that the Syntengs were profoundly disaffected to our rule. Towards the close of 1860 new taxation was introduced, in the form of judicial stamps; and the elaborate schedules of the new income tax were thrust into the hands of persons, few of whom could read the language in which they were framed. Imposts also were
175 introduced upon fisheries and the right to cut timber. Con-
764 siderable feeling had been excited by a sanitary prohibition against
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burning the dead in the immediate neighbourhood of the village of Jowái. Suspicions of insurrection arose during the months of October and November 1861. In the beginning of January 1862 alarming reports were received from various quarters, and the first serious outbreak occurred on the 17th of that month. This was occasioned by the interference of a *dárogá*, or native police official, with a religious ceremony that took place at the village of Jalong. In such ceremonies dancing with arms is held essential; and the *dárogá* took upon himself to disarm the dancers. This was the signal for a general rising. The *thánd* or police station at Jowái was burned to the ground; the garrison of sepoys was besieged, and all show of British authority was swept away throughout the Hills. The Syntengs fought bravely for their independence, and at first were successful in cutting off several small detachments of police and sepoys. Their weapons were bows and arrows. In common with the other hill tribes of the North-East Frontier, their chief defence consisted in a series of strong stockades, one behind another; and the paths leading to their villages were thickly planted with *panjis*, or little bamboo spikes, stuck in the ground like caltrops. The battalion of sepoys stationed in the Hills was rendered inefficient by sickness. At last it was found necessary to move a regular army, including an elephant battery and two regiments of Sikhs, into the country in order to quell the revolt. Colonel Dunsford was in chief command. He was accompanied by Major Haughton, the Governor-General's Agent on the North-East Frontier, and Captain Morton, the Deputy-Commissioner of the Khási and Jáintiá Hills, who acted in a political capacity. The operations were tedious and harassing. The rebel chiefs were captured one by one, and the District was declared to be finally pacified in March 1863, after the rebellion had lasted for fifteen months. The special Commission appointed under Act xi. of 1857, for the trial of offenders in the Jáintiá Hills, was dissolved in December 1863. The causes of the rebellion were thus summed up by Major Haughton in an official despatch to the Government of Bengal:—'Taxation was introduced without the supervision with which such a measure should have been accompanied. It was followed up by fresh taxation and rumours of other taxes, also by fiscal and other innovations, which tended to disturb the minds of the people, without any counterpoise such as might have resulted from the continued presence of a European officer.' The Syntengs, like the

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175 Khasia, have, ever since the measures of improvement which
648 followed, remained peaceable and contented.

General Aspect of the District.—The District consists
133 almost entirely of hills, only a very small portion lying in the plains. The slope of the hills on the southern side is steep, until a table-land is met with at an elevation of about 4000 feet. Higher up there is another plateau at Máo-flang, ten miles to the eastward of which, and in the same mountain range, the Civil Station of Shillong is situated at an elevation of 6000 feet above sea level. On the northern side of the hills are two plateaus, one between 1000 and 2000 feet below the level of Shillong, and the second lower down, about 3000 feet above sea level. In general features all these plateaus are much alike, and consist of a succession of undulating downs, broken here and there by the valleys of the larger hill streams. In the
137 higher ranges, where the hills have been denuded of forest, the country is covered with short grass, which becomes longer and more rank in the lower elevations. A remarkable feature in the aspect of the country throughout the hills is the numerous sacred groves which superstition has preserved from time immemorial from the destructive hand of the woodcutter. These sacred groves
[778] contain beautiful timber-trees of various kinds, rare orchids, rhododendrons, and wild cinnamon. On the more elevated table-lands, pine trees and stunted oak are met with; and in the lower hills, in every direction, are dense forests of the usual Indian trees, containing valuable timber.

134 The geological formation is mainly granite, with stratified rocks
135 of sandstone, limestone, and shale. The coal-beds rest on trap and metamorphic rocks. The prevailing surface soil is a red homogeneous loam.

133 Mountains.—The principal mountain ranges and highest peaks in the Khási and Jáintia Hills are as follow:—(1) The Shillong range—height of principal peak, 6,043 feet above sea level. (2) Dáwki range—principal peak, 4,000 feet. (3) Mán-thad-rái-shán range—highest peak, 6,031 feet. (4) Lán-ngo-rái range—highest peak, 5,773 feet. (5) Lán-mán-dáh range—highest peak, 5,517 feet. (6) Lán-kor-rái—highest peak, 5,400 feet. (7) Lán-láh range—highest peak, 4,984 feet. (8) Lyng-kor-dem range—highest peak, 5000 feet. (9) Lám-laieng range—highest peak, 4,898 feet. (10) Mán-syh-shán range—highest peak, 5,800 feet.

The principal mountains are:—(1) Rup-lang—height, 5,850 feet.

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(x) Sak-pen-lyu-rong, literally "The Navel of the Sky." This is supposed by the Khásis to be the centre of the world, and to be the highest peak in the hills. Its real altitude, however, is only about 4000 feet. (y) Syrce—height, 6050 feet. (z) Shillong—height, 6445 feet. (a) Diengiei—height, 6300 feet. (b) Kyl-long rock, one huge mass of stone, about 300 feet high, and of a rounded form—height above sea level, 5781 feet. (c) Lúh-láh—height, 5800 feet. (d) Lúh-duh—height, 6000 feet. (e) Thangi-mihe—height, 4048 feet. (ee) Nong-jrong—height, 4995 feet. (ee) U Shlie—height, 6000 feet. (ee) Shlie-kang—height, 5150 feet. (ee) Shlie-kú-long—height, 5300 feet. (ee) Shlie-py-nad—height, 5800 feet. (ee) Symper—height, 5700 feet. (ee) Shlie-sngi—height, 5800 feet. (ee) Lúh-mih-kúe—height, 5313 feet. (ee) Nong-syn-rih—height, 5183 feet. (ee) Shlie-kryn—height, 5300 feet. (ee) Nong-khrong—height, 5800 feet. (ee) Kuh-long-engiéw—height, 5108. (ee) Shlie-lúh-lah—height, 4050 feet. (ee) Futse-kyl-long—height, 5733 feet.

The mountain peaks are of various forms and shapes, but generally conical, and capped by sacred groves. No roads exist to permit the ascent of carriages, but most of the hills can be ascended by beasts of burden, even without made tracks. In the eastern portion of the District the hills are covered with forest.

Rivers.—Six navigable rivers flow through the hills, the streams being all mountain torrents. On some of the large streams, however, near the point where they debouch upon the plains, small canoes are used for short distances below the rapids. The principal streams flowing south to the Surmá river in Sylhet are the following:—(a) The Kyn-shi-ang, named Jádúkátá by the Bengális in the plains; (b) the Tangkh, called Mahú in the plains; (c) the Bograh, called Boglyáni in the plains; (d) the Suh-rung-kew, called Dhalái in the plains; (e) the Mawgh, called Pain in the plains; (f) the Shie-nyh-dia, called Shái in the plains; and (g) the Lukái or Lalái. The principal tributaries to the Brahmaputra are:—(a) The Kupili; (b) the Umkhen, called Sanjái in the plains; (c) the Um-dia; (d) the Umiam, called Digru in the plains; and (e) the Kushiári, called Kalái in the plains. All the foregoing streams have numerous feeders of their own, but none of them are of any importance.

The Khási and Jáintiá Hills are, like all mountainous countries, intricately watered, and the streams run over rocky beds, some passing through cultivated lands. As they approach the plains,

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133 they form rapids, the waters precipitating themselves down deep, rocky gorges and chasms, choked with huge boulders. Some of these gorges are very beautiful; the streams, being hemmed in between stupendous mountains and rocks covered with primeval forest, run in narrow but very deep channels swarming with fish. No islands or lakes are formed by any of the rivers, although several of them have large, deep pools. They are all unfordable during the rains.

312 Utilization of the Water Supply.—None of the rivers are utilized as a motive power for turning machinery, although the streams on the higher plateaux might be easily turned to such an account. Their waters, however, are extensively used for the purposes of irrigation, and the hill people display great ingenuity in cutting channels or aqueducts for leading the water on to their fields. It is in this manner that the Civil Station of Shillong receives its water supply. Aqueducts convey water to the houses of all the European residents; and branch channels from the main aqueduct flow through the *Main*, and along the streets occupied by the native inhabitants. No fishing towns exist in the hills; but near where the rivers debouch upon the plain are some valuable fisheries, which are annually let in farm, the lessees being generally Bengális. These fisheries yield an annual Government revenue of about £300. Embankments in order to protect the land against floods do not exist. A few embankments, or rather dams, are thrown across narrow valleys between hills, so as to create reservoirs for water. At Shillong there are a few tanks thus formed, which are both useful and ornamental.

135 Minerals, etc.—Coal and limestone, both of excellent quality, are found in abundance. Lower Bengal obtains nearly the whole of its lime supply from the Khási and Jáintiá Hills. The lime is known as "Sylhet lime," and is obtained by quarrying from the beds of stone which line the base of the mountains along the whole length of the Sylhet boundary. The supply is literally inexhaustible. Coal outcrops at Cherrá Púnjí, Lákádong, Shellá, Máo-syn-ram, and at several other places; but as a rule it is scattered, and found in places difficult of access. The coal, however, is of excellent quality, and leaves very little ash. Stone, well adapted for building purposes, is also found. Ironstone exists almost everywhere throughout the Hills, but principally in the dependent States of Khyrim, Nongpoong, Cherrá, and Mylliem. In former years the Khásás were

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In former years the Khásiás were great iron-smelters, and enormous excavations in the most favourable localities for obtaining ironstone prove the extent to which this manufacture was carried on. In some places the whole surface of the ground appears to have been dug up for a depth of several feet, leaving huge boulders standing up here and there. Of late years, however, as the price of labour in the Hills has risen, the trade in iron has died away, and there is now little demand for the Khásí article, the cheaper English metal having driven it out of the market.

NATURAL PHENOMENA.—Many peculiar caves and caverns are found in the limestone rock formation, the most notable being the caves at Cherrá Púnji and at Rúpnáth in Amwi. At the latter place the caverns extend a great distance beneath the earth, one being imagined by the people to reach as far as China, and a Hindu legend states that a Chinese army once marched by this route to the invasion of India. In another cave, the limestone stalactites have been carved into images representing the gods of the Hindu pantheon. On the banks of the Kapilí river on the Cáchár border, at a place called Sumir, there is a hot spring, the water of which contains carbonate of lime. All the rivers in the Hills flow through gorges in certain parts of their course, the most picturesque being at Tehriá, where a small stream is compressed into deep pools among limestone rocks; and at Darrang and Borghát, where the Mangat and Mantideo rivers respectively debouch upon the plains.

FORESTS, ETC.—The India-rubber or caoutchouc tree is found in many forests throughout the Hills, but not in great numbers, and the supply and value of the gum has much decreased of late years. In 1870 the right of tapping the trees in the Jáintiá Hills was leased out for a sum of £36, 12s. 0d.; but by 1876 the trade had almost entirely ceased. There are some tracts of timber forest on the lower hills towards the Brahmaputra valley, but through the want of water carriage they are of no great value. Vigorous efforts are being made to preserve the forests in the higher plateaux. Owing to the habit of firing the jungle in spring prior to sowing, great waste of valuable timber has taken place; but since the country has been separated from Bengal and placed under the administration of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, attention has been given to the matter, and special areas are now being set apart for the preservation and growth of forest timber. Cinnamon grows wild in some parts of the country. There is a considerable trade carried on in

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There is considerable trade carried on in
245 439 *tezpit* or bay leaves, the trees being extensively cultivated by the inhabitants of the lower slopes of the hills on the Sylhet border. The finest oranges in India are also grown in groves in the same tract, the value of the trade in which is now (1876) estimated to amount 237 to £3760 per annum. Lac is gathered by the Míkírs in the Jáintiá 439 Hills, but not to any great extent. Bees are both domesticated 231 and found wild, and an extensive trade in bees-wax is carried on, the amount exported being estimated at from three hundred to four hundred *maunds* annually. The whole of the Hills, where there is 233 no forest, and where the land is not under cultivation, consists of 621 rich pasture grounds, which are held in common by the villagers 651 and pay no revenue to Government.

137 The forests of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills do not yield much profit either to the British Government or to the chiefs. There [648] are no reserved forests in the District; and according to the Deputy-Conservator, the total area of unreserved forest, *i.e.* of land covered [659] with timber trees and not at present required for *júm* cultivation, is only 150 square miles. The trees found are chiefly pine, and those classified as 'mixed upper hill forests.' At an elevation of 3000 feet, the Pinus Kasia predominates over all other vegetation and forms almost pure pine forests. It is found also at lower heights, and there attains larger dimensions, but only in the case of isolated trees. The 'mixed upper hill forests' are confined to a series of sacred groves, which clothe the topmost ridge of the watershed between the valleys of the Brahmaputra and Surmá. The characteristic trees are those of a temperate vegetation, chiefly consisting of oaks, chestnuts, magnolia, Schima, Cinnamomum, Prunus, Engelhardtia, etc. There are also numerous other timber trees, including the valuable *sál* (Shorea robusta) and the rubber tree (Ficus elastica); but on the whole the Khásí Hills are remarkable for the [648] absence of forest. Early in 1874-75 measures were taken to put a [659] stop to the indiscriminate burning of the forests, and the Siems and village officers were made responsible for the conservancy of the sacred groves. These endeavours have met with some success; but it is a very difficult thing to change the habits of a population, or to induce uncivilised tribes to incur a small temporary inconvenience for the sake of future benefit. The total area directly protected from fire during the year 1875-76 is returned at 3618 acres; the expenditure was Rs. 122; and in ten prosecutions for breaches of forest rules, twenty-three persons were convicted.

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The forest administration of the British Government is confined to two plantations in the neighbourhood of Shillong, for which a rent is payable in perpetuity. One of these, on the farther side of the Umkra, was originally acquired in 1871-72 for the sake of experiments in arboriculture. The rent of Rs. 50, or £5, is paid by the Forest Department; the area had been at first estimated at 580 acres, but an actual survey undertaken in 1875-76 reduced this estimate to 262·59 acres. A considerable portion is covered with Pinus Kasia, which is carefully protected. Of the exotic trees tried on this plantation, only the three following can be said to have done well: Juglans regia, Eucalyptus rostrata, and Pinus maritima. All the rest either suffered from frost in the winter, or required far more nursing than can be afforded them in forest plantations. The young trees of the indigenous oak (Quercus serrata) were also attacked by rats, who bit off great numbers just above the ground. The Spanish chestnuts did not thrive, and were removed to the model farm for trial at a higher elevation. The second plantation, on the northern slopes of the range immediately behind the Station, consists of several patches of forest, which were acquired in connection with the scheme for providing Shillong with a permanent water supply. The total rent is Rs. 375, or £37, 10s., paid from Town Improvement Funds; and the aggregate area is estimated at 796 acres. All the fields within this area that had formerly been cultivated by the Khásiás—about 80 acres in all—were sown by the Forest Department with Pinus Kasia, Quercus Griffithii, Q. serrata, and Q. fenestrata, which have succeeded well; and about 8 acres were planted with different species of Eucalyptus. Up to the close of 1875-76 the sum expended on the first of these two plantations was Rs. 742. 9. 9, or £74, 5s. 3d., and on the second, Rs. 730. 9. 6, or £73, 1s. 2d.

A cinchona plantation was started in 1867 by the Superintendent of the Calcutta Botanical Gardens. It consists of twelve small patches of plants near Nongklao, and one near Jírang, situated at elevations varying from 3500 feet to 2000 feet. The species cultivated are Cinchona succirubra, C. officinalis, and C. micrantha. At first they were under the charge of two Khási gardeners, who each received Rs. 16 a month, or £19, 4s. a year, to weed them and keep fires out. In 1874-75 these plantations were taken charge of by the Forest Department, and specimens of the cinchona bark were submitted for analysis to the Government Quinologist

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at Dárjiling, who reported unfavourably on them. They have since been made over to the Siem of Nongklao, who is responsible for their being kept clear of weeds and protected against fire. Up to the close of 1875–76 the total expenditure had been Rs. 672, or £67, 4s. od.

136 FERÆ NATURÆ.—Tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, buffaloes, *mithuns* or wild cows, bears, leopards, wolves, jackals, foxes, wild hog, and several kinds of deer abound in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills. The [224] expense of keeping down tigers in the shape of Government rewards [648] amounted to £44, 10s. od. in 1869-70. The rate of reward now paid is Rs. 25 or £2, 10s. od. per head. No rewards have ever been given for the destruction of venomous serpents. The number [165] of deaths from wild beasts and snake-bite reported to the police amounted to 28 in 1866-67, 18 in 1867-68, 16 in 1868-69, and 26 in 1869-70. The small game found in the Hills consists of black partridges, hill partridges, quails, ducks, teal, snipe, and woodcocks. 226 The *mahsír* fish is caught in the rivers. No regular trade is carried 439 on in the skins of wild animals; and, except in the case of wild elephants, the *ferœ naturæ* are not made to contribute towards the wealth of the people.

224 ELEPHANTS.—Wild elephants are found in the lower ranges of 648 the hills, and in the gorges opening on the valleys of the Surmá and 651 the Brahmaputra. Each State in the Khásí Hills and each dolloiship in the Jáintiá Hills constitutes a separate hunting circle or *mahál*. In the Khásí States the conditions of elephant hunting are governed by rules framed in 1874-75 by the Chief Commissioner, and approved by the Government of India. These rules provide, (1) that the British Government will make no claim to royalty on account of elephants caught in the Khásí Hills; (2) that one half of the proceeds of the sale of each elephant caught shall be paid over to the chief whose State forms the *mahál*, and the other half retained by Government; (3) that if a chief wishes to hunt elephants on his own account, the *mahál* composed of his State shall be reserved from sale, and a special arrangement shall be made with him on the basis that half the proceeds of the hunting shall accrue to Government. A special form of hunting licence in accordance with these rules has been settled by the Chief Commissioner. In the Jáintiá Hills, as being British territory, the ordinary Assam rules are in force, in accordance with which leases of the *mahálls* are sold at intervals of two years to the highest bidder at

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public auction. The Assam rules, as revised in 1875-76, reserve to Government the right of pre-emption at the price of Rs. 600 (£60) in the case of every elephant captured between 6 feet and 7½ feet in height. For every elephant caught that is not purchased by Government, a royalty of Rs. 100 (£10) is payable within one month after capture. Certain methods of hunting are prohibited.

POPULATION.—Prior to 1872 no attempts had been made at a Census of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills, but in 1870 the Deputy-Commissioner approximately estimated the population at 118,925 souls. In 1872, at the time of the Bengal Census, operations were set on foot in these Hills, but on a less elaborate system than in Regulation Districts. In the Khásí Hills, the Census of the various petty States was effected through the chiefs; in British territory in the Jáintiá Hills, the *dolloís* conducted the enumeration; while at Shillong and other places under direct administration, the work was done by officers attached to the Deputy-Commissioner's office. The results are thus returned:—Adults—males, 39,882; and females, 44,298: total adults, 84,280. Children under twelve years of age—males, 28,611; and females, 28,947: total children, 57,558. Total males, 68,593; total females, 73,245. Grand total, 141,838; proportion of males, 48·36 per cent. The total area of the District, according to the latest returns, is 6157 square miles, which gives an average density of 23 persons per square mile. The number of villages is 1003; the number of houses, 30,557, of which 350 are returned as of the better sort.

ETHNICAL DIVISION OF THE PEOPLE.—The population consists almost exclusively of aboriginal tribes and races, viz. Khásiás and Syntengs (who form the bulk of the inhabitants of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills respectively), Míkírs, Gáros, and Kukís. The only other dwellers in the Hills are the European officials and military officers at Shillong and Cherrá Púnjí, with their native servants and followers, a few Bengálí officials, and the sepoys of a regiment of native infantry. The classification of the inhabitants according to religion shows:—141,283 aborigines; 365 Hindus; 62 Muhammadans; and 128 Christians, including 35 Europeans, 8 Eurasians, and 85 native converts.

THE KHASIAS.—The following sketch of the physical characteristics and customs of the Khásiás has been kindly furnished to me by the Deputy-Commissioner, Colonel Bivar; it is reproduced almost verbatim from his report and on his authority:—

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144 'ETHNOLOGY.—In order to determine the ethnological position of the Khásiás, we need dwell upon a few only of their physical characteristics, viz. those which are held to indicate that type of the human family, the Mongolian, to which they undoubtedly belong. A detailed description of their physiognomy would embrace forms and characters by no means common even to tribes occupying the hills in close proximity to them, much less referable to all branches of the Mongolian stock. These differences in detail, which may be attributed mainly to local influences, render it extremely difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to trace out the exact relation which these mountain tribes bear to each other. But the Mongolian, or to use a more comprehensive term, the Turanian, physiognomy is unmistakeable in them all—Khásiás, Jáintiás, Gáros, Míkírs, Nágás, Manipuris, etc. The chief points may be briefly stated as follows:—
142 Colour tawny or yellow, though a darker hue is not entirely
[141] unknown; nose somewhat depressed, with a peculiar conformation
[302] towards the forehead at the glabellum, which is very flat and broad; face broad, flat, and squarish, with high and rounded cheek-bones; skull globular rather than square; eyes middle-sized and black, with a yellow tinge in the eyeball; eyelids obliquely set, but less acutely than in the Chinese and other Indo-Chinese races; mouth large, with prominent though not very thick lips; hair black, thick, and worn long, the orthodox style being to tie it up in a knot at the back, varying little with sex; beard remarkably sparse, but the
141 moustache more abundant than the beard. The lower classes go
[826] bare-headed; stature low in the majority of cases; constitution strong and robust; limbs thick, short, and stout; trunk long in proportion and very broad at the waist; calves over-developed, but this is considered an element of beauty, more especially in the women, who, on the average, are fairer and handsomer than the men; carriage ungraceful.

157 'SOCIAL AND MORAL QUALITIES.—Disposition very affable, gentle, and cheerful; rather industrious, but devoid of ingenuity and mechanical skill. In the industrial arts, such as masonry, carpentry,
291 and agriculture, they are amenable to training. Dress amongst the lower classes is confined to a fringed jacket rudely woven of hemp, extending down as far as the thighs, and leaving the arms bare, together with a scanty covering for the loins. The more respectable classes wear a turban of coarse cotton or silk for a head-dress, and a sheet of silk thrown loosely over the shoulders, together with a long

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strip of fine silk for the loins, a part of which hangs gracefully as low as the calves in front. No notice is here taken of what has undoubtedly been added and borrowed from their more civilised neighbours in the plains. 291

'MARRIAGE.—The marriageable age for females is from 15 to 18; for males, from 18 to 24. Matrimonial alliances are contracted either through the parents or the living representatives of the families to which the parties belong. The mode of procedure is still very primitive and unceremonious. The bridegroom, escorted by a number of friends and relatives, goes to the house of the bride, where all are feasted and lodged for the night; on the morrow he leads the bride, accompanied by a number of her relatives, to his own house, and entertains the company with dishes of boiled rice and fresh pork. After remaining there a day or two, the newly-married couple return together to the house of the wife, which becomes their future home. Marriage is dissoluble by regular divorce, for any sufficient cause, and often without any assignable reason except mutual dislike or want of issue, the latter being the most common case of all. Marriage with the Khásiás is simply a conventional arrangement, with nothing further for its object than the procreation of children; failing that, it is no longer looked upon as a contract permanently binding. Divorce is effected in the presence of eye-witnesses—the parents, or the heads of clans. Five cowries (*kauris*) are produced by the parties and exchanged, then cast away by mutual consent, and the ceremony is over. Parties once divorced can never again contract marriage with each other, but they are at liberty to marry into other families. Polygamy, strictly so called, is not sanctioned by Khásí custom. Adultery is looked upon as a serious crime. If the five cowries have not been cast away by mutual consent, both husband and wife are held to be subject to the "matrimonial demon;" and even when either dies in wedlock, the survivor is not at liberty to contract a fresh alliance until he or she pays the family a sum of money as the means of removing the surviving party from subjection to the "matrimonial demon." The husband is a stranger, so to speak, in the family he has entered, and perpetuates the race of others, not his own. The children in all questions of lineage and personal rights follow the mother. There are always two interests in the same family—that of the husband, and that of the wife. Whatever the husband may have earned or acquired in

58 591 586 [581] 587 595 837 587 593 611 593 428

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593 wedlock goes to the wife and becomes her property; but all other
428 property is inalienable, and reverts to his family, as also does his corpse after death.

771 'RELIGION.—The religion of the Khásiás is demon-worship, or a jumble of enchantments muttered by priests who are sorcerers. They invoke evil spirits as the deputies of God and the instruments
775 of His pleasure or displeasure. The Khásiás believe in metempsychosis, or the transmigration of souls. After death, human beings are transformed into monkeys, crabs, tortoises, frogs, etc. Though a future state is not denied, it is treated with absolute indifference, as beyond the sphere of responsibility; all rites, ceremonies, and observances bear reference to the welfare of mankind in this world. The spirits of their departed relatives and ancestors are invoked only in so far as they are considered to influence and have power
764 over the present life. The Khásiás burn their dead, and collect the ashes into urns, which are kept under a slab raised on four others enclosing a space. These monuments are of various kinds and sizes —one for individuals, another for a family, and another for a whole
614 clan. There is no caste system, but each clan is called after some object of nature, as the Oak clan, the Crab clan, etc., and these names entail certain restrictions beyond which intermarriage is
771 forbidden. The Khási religion may be briefly described as the practice of forms to cure diseases, and to avert misfortunes of all kinds, by means of ascertaining the name of the demon who is the author of the evil, and the kind of sacrifice necessary to appease it.

797 'CHRISTIANITY.—The Welsh Mission has been labouring amongst the Khásiás and Syntengs for thirty-two years. The Christians number about 1000 [according to the Census of 1872, the total number of native converts in the District is only 85]. There are four central stations—Cherrá, Shellá, Shillong, and Jowái —and twenty-three churches. Translations of the whole of the New Testament, and a portion of the Old, are now (1876) going to press, besides other religious books.

197 'LANGUAGE.—The definitions generally given of monosyllabic
193 languages are far from adequate to enable us to assign to the Khási tongue its position amongst the Indo-Chinese family of speech. Still, in the absence of a better terminology, it may be described as monosyllabic in the agglutinative stage. The monosyllabic element greatly predominates. By far the larger number of the compounds are mere agglutinations (in a modified

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sense) or juxtapositions of roots which have not thereby suffered either obscuration or absorption—that is to say, they are all, with a few exceptions, reducible to their constituent root words, which are still "current coin," and retain their power as independent vocables. The cases in which obscuration and "fusion" of roots have taken place are confined to—(1) the noun prefix *jong*, expressing abstract ideas; (2) the verbal prefixes *kyn*, *kyn*, *lyn*, *ryn*, *syn*, *tyn*, *pyn*, *byr*, *kyr*, *lyr*, *pyr*, *syr*, *tyr*, expressing causation, intensification, and contrariety. The language is found purest at Cherrá Púnjí. The Khásiás have no written character or literature of any kind of their own. Tradition says that all was lost while they were yet masters of the plains, whence they were driven by a general catastrophe or deluge to their present fastnesses in the hills. The following works on the language have been published: *Khási Grammar*, *Anglo-Khási Dictionary*, *Khási Primer* (Parts I. and II., with Vocabulary),—all issued by the Calcutta School-Book Society; *Khási English Dictionary* (in preparation), and an *Anglo-Khási First Book*.

'CUSTOMS REGARDING INHERITANCE.—A Khásiá, whether married or single, if he makes his mother's house his home, is said to be earning for his *kur*, *i.e.* for his mother, or his brothers and sisters, or his mother's relatives. On his death his property goes to his mother, if living; if not, to the grandmother; if she is not living, then to his sisters; should his sisters also be dead, to his sisters' children. Should the deceased have left no sisters, the property goes to the brothers; should he have no brothers or should they be dead, the property descends to his aunts, or to their children if the aunts are not living; should the aunts have left no children, the property descends to the grandmother's or great-grandmother's sisters or children. The property of a female on her death goes to her mother, if the deceased have no children; or if the mother of the deceased is not living, the property goes to the brothers and sisters; if the sisters are dead, then their children become the heirs. If there are no such children, the property devolves as in the case of males. When a man is not living in his mother's house, but in that of his wife, he earns for his wife and children. On his death his property descends to his wife, with the exception of the ornaments and clothing worn by him during his lifetime, which go to the brothers and sisters or other relatives of the deceased. Should the deceased have been a widower, the property goes to his children, and in their absence

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428 to the sisters of his wife, or to her nearest relatives if there are no sisters. The rank and titles of a deceased male descend to his brother; when no brother exists, then to the male children of his mother's sisters (maternal aunts); should the maternal aunts have no male children living at the time, then to the eldest male child of his sisters. When no relatives are to be found, the property of the deceased goes to the ruler of the country; or if a man dies leaving no relative other than wife and children, *i.e.* no relatives on the mother's side, the property in this case also goes to the ruler, who, as the wife and children cannot preserve the ashes of the deceased, takes charge of them, and for so doing takes all the property also. With regard to the inhabitants of the Lower Hills at Shellá, the custom as to succession is as follows:—Property belonging to a subject of Shellá is divided into two classes—(1) Property inherited from ancestors, which descends to the nearest of kin or to the relative of a deceased person who can perform his obsequies. (2) Property acquired during the lifetime of the holder, which is inherited by the children, whose duty it is to provide for the maintenance of their mother until she re-marries or dies.'

434 465 342 352 342 184 262 434 276 MATERIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.—The Khásiás and the Syntengs are as a people prosperous. Common labourers, if adult males, can earn wages as high as one shilling per diem, and adult females as high as eightpence. The dwellings of the well-to-do classes are generally constructed of masonry, with thatched roof and plank floor, and divided into two or three rooms. The furniture consists of a bedstead (*charpái*), a seat or two (*morá*), some cooking utensils, and a few boxes. The ordinary peasants and poorer classes construct their huts of stone, mud, or plank walls, with a thatch or cane roof. These are fitted with wooden platforms or loose planks placed on the ground to serve as beds. The food of the well-to-do classes consists of rice, fish when obtainable, fowl or meat, curry, vegetables, oil, hog's lard, fermented and spirituous liquor. It may be estimated that the living expenses of an average-sized household of this class would be about Rs. 25 or £2, 10s. a month, valuing the articles of consumption at *bázár* prices. An ordinary husbandman or labourer lives on rice, dry fish, occasionally a little meat, oil, or hog's lard. *Pán* leaf, betel-nut, and lime are essential to the comfort of all the hill people, who are inveterate chewers of *pán*. They commence at an early age, and are rarely seen without a *pán* leaf in their mouths; the females are quite

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disfigured from the practice. Adults will chew as many as four or five betel-nuts a day, with the usual accompaniment of *pán* leaves. The estimated cost of maintaining an average family of the labouring class is about Rs. 8 or 16s. a month.

TOWNS: SHILLONG.—There are no towns in the usual acceptance of the word; but the chief places in the Hills, looked upon by the inhabitants as cities, are Shillong, Jowái, Cherrá Púnji, and Shellá. According to the Census of 1872, Shillong had only 1363 inhabitants, Cherrá Púnji 443, and Jowái 4502. Jowái, however, is a collection of rural hamlets, and the population of Shillong has entirely altered since the date of the Census. The latter place first became the Civil Station in 1864, in substitution for Cherrá Púnji; and when Assam was erected into an independent Province in 1874, it was selected as the permanent seat of the Local Government. The Chief-Commissioner resides there, and also the heads of all departments in the Administration. The area of the Station is 7 miles in length by 1½ to 1¾ miles in breadth. A considerable native population is already settled, and is increasing from day to day. One of the largest weekly markets is held in the *bázár*; and with a view to facilitate access to the Station, which is the sanitarium for the Province of Assam, a cart road has recently been completed to Gauháti on the Brahmaputra, which will tend to make the place more and more important. An excellent water supply is introduced into Shillong through an aqueduct which has its source in the neighbouring hill streams, and sanitary measures are carefully enforced. Large sums of money have annually been expended on the erection of the public buildings necessary for the offices of the administration. A printing-press has been established, from which issue all the official documents and reports of the Province. The climate is excellent, the temperature being more equable than that of any other hill station in India, and therefore admirably suited to the constitution of Europeans. There is a church at Shillong, and a chaplain on the Bengal establishment officiates both there and at Gauháti. The cantonments were occupied in 1875 by the 43d Regiment of Assam Light Infantry, with three outposts. The strength was 9 European officers, 16 native commissioned officers, 80 non-commissioned officers, 772 fighting men, and 58 paid camp followers and non-combatants; grand total, 935. The total cost, including contingencies, was Rs. 189,190, or £18,919.

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361 In the interior of the Hills the largest villages are mere clusters of
463 huts. The great majority of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture, but there are no data upon which a proportion of agriculturists to non-agriculturists could be based.

167 There is no immigration into the District. Both the Khásiás and
178 the Syntengs have been successful in preserving to the present day their primitive isolation, free from the interference of Hinduism. They still maintain their aboriginal forms of belief and re-
[771] ligious worship, and repudiate alike the authority of Bráhmans and
[262] the entire system of caste. To some extent, however, they have given way to Hindu prejudices in the matter of purity of food. The
[563] few Hindus to be found in the Hills are temporary residents, engaged in civil and military employ, who always contemplate returning
[441] to their own homes. The traders are for the most part natives of the Hills; for the Márwárí merchants, who penetrate into every other corner of Assam, have been able to obtain no footing in the face of Khásí competition. There is likewise no emigration from the District. The hillmen are a well-to-do and contented race, and either produce themselves or obtain by trade sufficient to satisfy
[166] their scanty wants. A certain number of both Khásiás and Syntengs proceed southwards every year to work on the tea gardens of Cáchár and Sylhet, but such absence from home is only temporary.

243 AGRICULTURE: RICE.—Thirteen different varieties of rice are cultivated in the District, of which the following is a list, giving the Khásí name as well as the description of the grain:—(1) *U-kyba-khynriam* (*u*, the masculine article, meaning 'the,' and *kyba*, noun masculine, meaning 'paddy'), brown rice with long grain; (2) *u-kyba-khynriam bai-lih*, a white rice with long grain; (3) *u-kyba la-toh*, round-grained rice; (4) *u-kyba ksai*, bearded, husked; (5) *u-kyba-dew-ba-iong*, black husked rice (literally *u* = 'the,' *kyba* = 'paddy,' *dew* = 'earth,' *ba* = 'that,' *iong* = 'black'); (6) *u-kyba-ba-lih*, white rice; (7) *u-kyba-seim*, scented rice (literally *u* = 'the,' *kyba* = 'paddy,' *seim* = 'royal'); (8) *u-kyba la-kroh*, large-grained rice; (9) *u-kyba-ba-tlang*, small-grained rice; (10) *u-kyba sa-bia*, early rice; (11) *u-kyba ra-bon*, late rice; (12) *u-kyba tang-la*, rice grown along with beans; (13) *u-kyba-ba-tiih*, small rice.

Rice is cultivated in marshy fields situated near running water as well as in high lands. The first seven of the above thirteen species of rice are sown in marshy lands during the months of April and May,

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and reaped generally in November and December, although in some parts of the hills the harvesting season commences as early as October. The following is the mode of cultivation pursued. About the middle of February, the husbandman commences to prepare the land by bringing water to his fields from neighbouring streams by means of regularly-cut channels. His land is thus kept inundated for from fifteen to thirty days, in order to soften the soil, when part of the water is allowed to escape through openings made in the banks surrounding the field. The land is then ploughed, the ploughing being called *lur-snih*, and three or four days afterwards it is made to undergo a second ploughing, called *lur-kyn-rvi*. The fields are then refilled with water by the same means as before, and allowed to remain covered from ten to fifteen days, when the water is again drained off. After this the land is ploughed a third and a fourth time, the ploughings being termed *lur-shat* and *lur-kct* respectively, and the soil is made as smooth as possible with the hands or a hoe (*kedáli*). The seed is then scattered broadcast over the field. Transplanting is not practised in the District. When the plant has sprung up about six inches above the ground, water is introduced into the field a third time, and allowed to stand for about two months, when it is drawn off for a few days, in order that the land may be weeded. After weeding, water is again let in, and is not drained off till the crop is ripe for the sickle. The other six varieties are grown on high lands, the mode of cultivation adopted being as follows:—About the middle of September the grass on the ground to be cultivated is turned up with a little of the soil attached to the roots, and allowed to remain until about February, when the turf so dug up is collected into heaps and burnt. In March or April, according as the rains happen to be early or late, these heaps are broken up and scattered over the fields. The land is then ploughed twice, or merely dug up with a hoe, and the seed is then sown. After sowing, the plough or hoe is used to cover up the seed, which sprouts in about ten days. Showers of rain at short intervals are now looked for, but too much rain, or, on the other hand, a succession of dry days, would injure the crop. As the plant acquires strength, less anxiety is felt concerning the rainfall. About the middle of September the ears begin to appear, and in November the grain is reaped. This description of rice is never grown for more than two successive seasons on the same land. No improvement has taken place within the last twenty years in the quality of the rice grown in

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243 the District, nor do any superior kinds of cereals appear to have been substituted for inferior ones.

THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF RICE CULTIVATION, in English and Khásí, are as follow:—The blade as it first shows, *spch-u-kyba;* the blade when well above the ground, *la-thylleng-u-kyba;* the ears when first formed, *lam-mat;* the ears beginning to ripen, *byr-tem;* the ripe ears, *la-hih;* unhusked rice, *u-kyba;* husked rice, *u-khaw;* cooked rice, *ka-ja.*

262 [435] [782] THE VARIOUS SOLID AND LIQUID PREPARATIONS made from rice are the following:—(1) *U-kypu*, cakes of different kinds, sold at six or twelve for a penny, according to size. (2) *U-shirí* or *gáh-khir*, prepared by the hillmen as an offering to their deity at the conclusion of the harvest. (3) *Kadam*, fermented rice water, sold at the rate of from three-farthings to threepence per quart, according to the strength of the liquor. (4) *Ka kiad-phatika* or *ka kiad-hdrak*, a kind of spirits distilled from rice, and sold at from threepence to fourpence-halfpenny per quart.

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243 OTHER CEREALS.—Indian corn, or *u-riu-ha-dem*, is grown on homestead lands. The ground is first manured, and the seed is sown about the middle of April. The crop is fit for cutting in September and October. A kind of millet seed called *u-krdi* is commonly sown with paddy on high lands. For want of more suitable land, however, this crop is often cultivated by itself on rocky slopes; and when this course is adopted, the jungle is first cut down in February and burnt. The seed is sown in April, and the crop gathered in December.

244 PULSES AND FIBRES.—Only two kinds of pulses are grown in the Hills, *u-rym-bai-ktung* and *u-rym-bai-jú*, both of which are varieties of beans. They are sown on high lands in March and April, and gathered in December. The only fibre is that made from the pine-apple stalk, which is largely used for making netted bags.

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245 [439] MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.—(1) Oranges.—There are numerous orange plantations in the neighbourhood of Cherrá Púnjí, and the fruit is exported to all parts of Bengal. In the year 1876-77 the estimated exports were 9,400,000 in number, valued at Rs. 37,600, or £3760, at the rate of Rs. 12 or £1, 4s. per three thousand. These figures show a decrease in number as compared with the estimated export twenty years ago. The trees flower in March or April, and the fruit ripens in October and the following months. In some cases the oranges are allowed to remain on the trees till March, but

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generally the gathering does not extend beyond January. As a rule, the cultivation is confined to the valleys and slopes on the southern face of the hills. (2) Pine-apples are also largely cultivated on the southern slopes, and grow to great perfection on the limestone formation. The fruit ripens in May or June, and is exported in considerable quantities. In 1876-77 the export of pine-apples was valued at Rs. 8000 or £800. (3) Potatoes are extensively grown on slopes of high land, and also in the low-lying fields where the land is well drained. The tuber was first introduced into the Hills in 1830 by Mr. Scott, who was then the Governor-General's Agent. The season for sowing commences about the middle of February when the rains set in early, and in April when they are late. The ground is dug up and carefully manured with burnt earth, and holes are dug about nine inches deep, and the same distance from each other. These holes are then partially filled in with loose earth, and a potato or two halves of one placed in each. They are then filled up with dry manure and soil. When the plant is fifteen or twenty days old, the ground about the roots is loosened and the plant earthed up, and the land is kept carefully weeded. In about four months after sowing, the crop is gathered. During the cold weather a second crop is raised, the seeds being planted in September and the tubers dug up in December. Potato cultivation has largely increased of late years in the District. In 1876-77 the exports were approximately estimated at 200,500 *maunds*, or 7480 tons, valued at Rs. 501,250 or £50,125, at the rate of Rs. 2. 8 per *maund*, or £7 per ton. (4) Sugar-cane is grown, but not to any great extent; cuttings are planted in March, and the cane ripens by November or December. (5) *Pán* is extensively cultivated, the runner being trained up trees standing in deep and shady valleys. Planting is carried on during the months of April and May, but the leaves are not fit to be gathered till the plant is two years old. (6) The *supári* or betel-nut (Areca catechu), called *u-kwai* by the Khásiás, is grown on the lower southern slopes of the hills, and, together with the *pán* leaf, is consumed in immoderate quantities by the inhabitants, who measure distance by the number of *páns* consumed on a journey. It is also exported to the plains. (7) *U-soh-phlang*, a root crop resembling a small turnip, is sown on high lands in April and gathered in September. It is a poor vegetable, but the natives of the Hills are fond of it, and eat it either raw or cooked. (8) Cotton is grown on high lands and

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(8) Cotton is grown on high lands and
248 slopes; it is sown in April, and becomes fit for picking by January.

311 Area and Out-turn of Crops.—According to the Assam Ad-
241 ministration Report for 1875-76, the area of the British portion of
648 the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills District amounts to 2160 square miles, of which only 110 are under cultivation; of the remainder, 1337 square miles are set down as cultivable, and 713 as uncultivable. The total area of the semi-independent Khásí States is given as 3997 square miles, of which 176 are under cultivation, 2561 are cultivable, and 1260 uncultivable. In another portion of the same Report, the area under various crops throughout the entire District is thus approximately estimated:—Rice, 59,880 acres; other food grains, 57,820 acres; cotton, 1076 acres; potatoes, 33,880 acres. The average out-turn of rice per acre is returned at 8 *maunds*, or nearly 6 cwt.; of other food grains, 3 *maunds*, or over 2 cwt.; of cotton, 2 *maunds*, or 1½ cwt.; of
[435] potatoes, 55 *maunds*, or nearly 40 cwt. The price of rice in 1875-76 was Rs. 4 8 per *maund*, or 12s. 8d. 2 cwt., which gives Rs. 36 or £3, 12s. as the value of the rice crop obtained from one acre.

241 Condition of the Peasantry.—The Khásís can scarcely be
423 considered an agricultural people, as they do not grow sufficient
433 grain for their own subsistence, and are dependent to a great extent on imports of rice from the neighbouring Districts. Ten acres is generally considered a comfortable holding for a husbandman in the position of an ordinary Bengal peasant, but scarcely any man in the Hills depends entirely upon the produce of his land for
[231] his support. In the Jáintiá Hills a cultivator's position is con-
[554] sidered to be very low if he possesses no cattle, but performs all the operations of agriculture with his own hands. In that portion of the District, five acres is all that can be cultivated with a single
[465] pair of oxen, the average being four acres. A husbandman with a holding of five acres would not be so well off as a retail shopkeeper, nor would it enable him to live as comfortably as he could on a money wage of Rs. 8 or 16s. a month. The peasantry, however, as a class are not in debt. The land is owned chiefly by small proprietors, who occupy and cultivate their hereditary fields. The relations of landlord and tenant do not exist in the Hills, and no rent is payable to any one; consequently the principle of Act x. of 1859 (the Rent Law of Bengal) has no application.

231 The Animals used in agriculture are oxen; goats and pigs are
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reared either for food or as articles of trade. A pair of ploughing oxen are worth about Rs. 32, or £3, 4s.; an ordinary cow, Rs. 12, or £1, 4s.; a score of kids six months old, Rs. 16, or £1, 12s.; and a score of full-grown pigs, from Rs. 100 to Rs. 160, or from £10 to £16. 231 435

The Agricultural Implements in use in the District consist of a plough, called *kopjaidir* in Khási, and a hoe or *kudáli*, called *u-mudkhin*. When the cultivation is carried on by means of oxen, the plough is used, the hoe alone being used when the land is cultivated by manual labour. In the Khási Hills the use of the plough, except in a few rare cases, is entirely unknown; but in the *Jáintiá* Hills, oxen and ploughs are used to a greater extent. What is technically termed 'a plough' of land is equivalent to four English acres; a pair of oxen, together with the necessary implements, would represent a capital of about Rs. 40, or £4. 241 407 [435]

Wages.—The Deputy-Commissioner reports that the price of labour in the District has more than doubled in the last ten years. The rates obtaining at present are from eightpence to one shilling a day for an ordinary labourer, and from one shilling to eightpence a day for a porter. An agricultural day-labourer earns sixpence, and a woman at the same work fourpence-halfpenny a day. Bricklayers, carpenters, and blacksmiths earn from a shilling to eightpence a day. The new Station of Shillong, the present seat of the Local Government, was established in May 1864, and since that date the demand for labour has markedly increased. The extension of the cultivation of potatoes has also had an appreciable effect on the price of labour. 178 464 465 [244]

Prices of Food Grains.—Of the different descriptions of rice in the markets of the District, the better sorts are imported from the neighbouring Districts of Sylhet and Kámrúp. The local produce is considered fit only for the use of the Khásiás. The price of the better descriptions depends entirely upon the distances from which the supplies come. In a distant market like that of Shillong, rice of the best quality generally sells at from 6 to 7 *sers* for the rupee, or from 16s. to 18s. 8d. per cwt.; and rice of inferior quality, which is only used by the poorer classes, at from 9 to 10 *sers* for the rupee, or from 11s. 2d. to 12s. 3d. per cwt. Little or no trade is carried on in unhusked grain. Paddy produced in the District generally sells at an average of from 15 to 16 *sers* per rupee, or from 7s. to 7s. 6d. per cwt. Indian corn, which is only grown to a small extent, is sold 435 439 293

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435 439 [243] 273 435 at the rate of two or three ears for a farthing; and sugar-cane, the cultivation of which is also very limited, at from a little over a farthing to three-farthings per cane. A fermented liquor called *kadaw*, made from rice, is sold at from three-farthings to threepence a quart, according to strength; and a distilled spirit called *phatika*, or *kathiad-kdrub*, at from threepence to fourpence-halfpenny a quart. This latter description of liquor is sometimes made very strong. No records exist by which the present prices of the above articles can [731] be compared with the rates ruling ten years ago. The maximum price of rice during the famine of 1866-67 was 5 *sers* 6 *chhatiks* for the rupee, or about £1 a hundredweight.

804 805 MEASURES, WEIGHTS, ETC.—The Hill people have no proper measurement of time or distance. If there be any standard for measuring distance, it is by the number of *pán* a man chews in the course of a journey, generally about one every half hour. In some parts of the District, land is measured by a stick called *ka diengsang*, varying in length from six to seven cubits. Liquids are measured in gourds of different measures, varying from half a *chhatik* to a *ser*, and also in bamboo tubes. Rice, potatoes, beans, etc. are measured in baskets, varying in size in different markets from two to eighty pounds.

805 In the Khási Hills the inhabitants reckon eight days in the week, named as follows:—(1) Lyn-kah; (2) Nong-krem; (3) Um-long; (4) Rung-hep; (5) Shillong; (6) Pom-tih; (7) Um-nih; (8) Yeo-duh. In the Jáintiá Hills the eight days are named thus:—(1) Kyllno; (2) Pyn-sing; (3) Máo-long; (4) Máo-siang; (5) Máo-shai; (6) Pyn-kat; (7) Thym-blein; (8) Ka-hat. The Khási months of the year, calculated by moons, are as follow:—(1) U Kylla lynkot; (2) U Rym-pang; (3) U Lyber; (4) U Laiong; (5) U Jimmang; (6) U Jillew; (7) U Nai-sing; (8) U Nai-lar; (9) U Nai-lúr; (10) U Rynew; (11) U Nai-wing; (12) U Nob-prah.

464 423 LANDLESS LABOURING CLASSES.—There is, and always has been, a large class of labourers in the District who neither rent nor possess any land. Women and children are employed in manual out-door labour of all kinds.

423 [427] VARIETIES OF LAND TENURE can hardly be said to exist. There is nothing whatever resembling the relations between landlord and tenant throughout the Khási Hills. The lands as a rule are either ancestral property or belong to village communities, and are cultivated under unwritten but well-understood agreements. Of the wide

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extent of waste land, some is cultivated in a manner resembling the *jhum* system,—successive crops are grown on a patch of land till the soil is exhausted, and then another spot is selected, where the same process is repeated afresh, but without anything that can be called a *jhoom* terrace. Any rotting of land is exceptional, and there are no recognized rates of rent. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, states that an ordinary rate for rented land would be from two to three shillings a year for as much land as an individual can cultivate with his own hands.

Manure is generally used in raising rice and potatoes. It is seldom purchased, the dung and litter of the cattle and other animals about the house being generally utilized for the purpose. For rice fields a little less than half a ton of manure, but for potatoes upwards of two tons, is required per acre. Manure, if purchased, would cost from 2s. 7½d. to 3s. 9d. per acre for rice land, and for potato fields from 12s. to 18s. per acre.

Irrigation for agricultural purposes is regularly practised. Water is brought to the land by means of channels cut from the numerous hill streams in the neighbourhood of the fields. Wells and tanks are unknown. The work of irrigation by means of these channels is very easily carried on, and at a very trifling outlay. Rotation of crops is not practised in the Hills.

Model Farm.—The Shillong Model Farm, established in 1873, has not proved a success. Experiments tried with wheat give some hope that cold-weather crops may profitably be introduced into the Hills. Two new varieties of potato—'red rosghe' and 'pheasant's eye'—were successfully introduced in 1877-78; but these are not looked upon favourably by the Khásis, as they only give one crop in the year, whereas the ordinary variety yields two crops. Several fruit-trees have been planted out, including apple, pear, cherry, nectarine, and plum; and the tables of the European residents are supplied with vegetables from the garden attached to the farm. A *Manual of Potato Cultivation* compiled by the superintendent has been translated into Assamese, and copies have been distributed among the adjoining Hill tribes. The general failure in all the agricultural experiments is attributed partly to the unknown of the soil, and still more to the ravages of white ants and other insects peculiar to the Hills. The attempts to improve the indigenous breeds of live stock have been equally unfortunate. During the two years 1874-76 the sum of Rs. 1700

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231 (£1116, 9s.) was expended on the purchase of stock, including
608 cattle, sheep, and pigs from England. Even native cattle at the
654 elevation of Shillong fell off very much in the months of January and February from want of forage, and the Khasis at this season generally drove them to lower slopes. But one of the chief objects in keeping cattle at the farm was to obtain manure; and root fodder (*Pastenaca sativus*) was grown for them, cut green, and stacked for food. On this they did very well. In 1873-76, however, cattle disease broke out on the farm in a very virulent shape. Out of 33 [774] cattle [illegible] only 2 or 3 of any sort, recovered, and the animals imported from England all died. There was also a heavy mortality in that year among the sheep and pigs. The following are the financial results for the two years:—1874-75—Expenditure, Rs. 13,257. 6. 3; receipts, Rs. 909. 2. 6: deficit, Rs. 12,387. 13. 11: 1875-76—Expenditure, Rs. 11,445. 8. 6; receipts, Rs. 1158. 13. 6: deficit, Rs. 10,298. 9. 6. Total deficit, Rs. 23,596. 7. 5, or £2359. 648 15s. In view of these figures the Chief Commissioner has deter-
650 mined to restrict farming operations to small experiments in im-
proved soil crops, and, as a measure of economy, to dispense with the services of the superintendent. The future expenditure on the farm will be insignificant. The establishment now (1877) consists of a *mukhtár* on Rs. 30 and a *chaukídár* on Rs. 10 a month (total, £24 a year), under the direct control of the Deputy Commissioner of Tezpore; the real nucleus of live-stock is by land.

731 SILKWORM CULTIVATION, such as Nágás, Kacháris, or Assamese, are not common in the District, although the crops in the Jaintia Hills sometimes suffer from insects. So far as the Deputy Commissioner is able to ascertain, no destruction of crops affecting the general harvest has occurred within the experience of the present generation. [616] During the Orissa famine of 1866-67 the maximum price of common rice reached £1 per hundredweight, but no such distress was felt as to require Government relief operations. The price just mentioned was certainly equal to the very greatest in the famine-stricken localities; but prices always rule high in the Hills, and afford no just criterion of the state of affairs among the general body of the inhabitants. Distress was only felt by a small portion of the population, chiefly the Bengálí immigrants residing in the District, who are generally a well-to-do class. The Hill people, as a rule, do 242 not eat pancras, which they grow only for export; but in case of 844 actual famine, they might fall back upon this crop for their own food. 439 [illegible]

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supply. As the District depends so largely for its supply of rice upon Sylhet and Kámrúp, the state of the markets in those places exercises a greater influence on the rates in the Hills than any failure of the local harvest. In the year 1898 the price of common rice is said to have risen as high as 6 *seers* for the rupee, or 180 per cent., in consequence of the failure of the crops in the plains.

Roads and Means of Communication.—The following are the eight principal lines of road in the Khási and Jaintia Hills:—(1) Road from Shillong to Cherrápúnjí, in Khásí. This road has recently (1897) been opened for wheeled traffic throughout its entire length. The Deputy-Commissioner's Report for 1897-98 states that the number of passengers passing up and down may be estimated at about five or more every month, and the number of carts already used at about 50. The *dák* brings travellers up to Shillong from Cherrápúnjí in two days by a comfortable and easy carriage service, while for natives a cheaper conveyance by bullock cart is available. At Cherrápúnjí there is a good *dák* bungalow in charge of a *khánsámah*, where the usual accommodation provided in a hotel is to be found. The stages to Shillong are as follow:—(a) Cherrápúnjí to Sumátlah, 13 miles. The road is good throughout. There is a *dák* bungalow in charge of a *chaukídár* at Sumátlah, where grain and rice are procurable. (b) Sumátlah to Nongpoh, 14½ miles. The road is hilly throughout, but good. At Nongpoh, which is at an elevation of 1500 feet, there is a *dák* bungalow in charge of a *khánsámah*, from whom tea, liquors, and luxuries, etc. can be obtained. The *dák* bungalow is furnished with bedding, linen, etc. Grain and rice can be purchased in the *bázár*. (c) Nongpoh to Umsning, 18½ miles. At Umsning, elevation 1500 feet, there is a *dák* bungalow in charge of a *chaukídár*. Supplies or candles are not procurable, but sometimes grain and rice can be purchased. (d) Umsning to Umjam, 9½ miles. At Umjam there is a Public Works Department rest-house in charge of a *chaukídár*. Supplies or candles are not procurable. (e) Umjam to Shillong, 9½ miles, of which 6½ are a continuous ascent. At Shillong there are *dák* bungalows in the Artillery Lines, consisting four separate rooms. A *khánsámah* is in attendance, and the rooms are completely furnished with bedding, linen, etc. This entire road, which has a total length of 63 miles, is as perfect a hill road as could be seen in any country, and a model of engineering skill. (2) Road running from Cherrápúnjí across the Hills, via Nongkrim, Máw-kyrí, Chamá

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491 Pínjí, and Thoráighát, to Bholágunj in Sylhet; length, about 130 miles. Repairs to this road are effected partly by the inhabitants of the Native States, and partly by Government. (3) Cart road from Shillong to Máo-fáng, 14 miles. This road has been opened for cart traffic throughout. (4) Road from Shillong, *viâ* Jowái and Mukhtápur, to Jáintápur in Sylhet; length, about 70 miles. This road is being improved from year to year, and when finished the cost may amount to £30 per mile. (5) Road to connect Shillong with the Gáro Hills, opened out from Márbisé, *viâ* Soh-iong, Kynchi, Máo-kor-chá, and Nongstáin, to within 20 miles of the boundary between the two Districts; length, about 52 miles. This road is at present only a fair-weather road. It was made in 1872-73, and when completed may cost £30 a mile. (6) Road to connect Shillong with the Confederate State of Shellá, bordering on Sylhet, from Lyn-kyn-tyng-noh *viâ* Pum-stan-ngát to Sym-pher; length, about 16 miles. This road, when completed, will be about 60 miles in length. (7) Road leading *viâ* Lait-tyng-kot to Soh-rá-rim and Cherrá Pínjí; length, about 22 miles. This is at present a bridle path, but may eventually be the line for a cart road to Cherrá Pínjí. (8) Road from Jowái, in the Jáintá Hills, to Nong-ri-tiang; length, about 12 miles. This road, when extended, will connect Jowái with the District of Nowgong in the Brahmaputra valley, and the estimated total length will be about 90 miles. Besides the above-mentioned eight roads, there are other bridle paths which facilitate access to remote places.

195 Coal Mines.—Coal exists in the Khási and Jáintá Hills in connection with the limestone formation. As a rule the carboniferous strata are not extensive, and they are for the most part found in localities more or less inaccessible. In the Khási Hills coal has been discovered at the eleven following places:—(1) By-rang, altitude about 1240 feet above sea level; (2) Cherrá, 4118 feet; (3) Lait-tyng-iew, 4800 feet; (4) Máo-long, 600 feet; (5) Máo-sroh, 1500 feet; (6) Máo-syn-ram, 4000 feet; (7) Máo-don, 400 feet; (8) Máo-mi-chhuri, 300 feet; (9) Máo-leh-lyrkár, 3000 feet; (10) Shellá, 800 feet; (11) Thángjinthh, 4400 feet. In the Jáintá Hills at the five following localities:—(1) Amwi, altitude about 3800 feet above sea level; (2) Lákádong, 2200 feet; (3) Nárpá, 300 feet; (4) Sah-tyng-gilh, 3300 feet; (5) Sher-mang, 4000 feet. The most extensive of the coal beds are those situated at Cherrá Pínjí in the Khási Hills, and at Lákádong in the Jáintá Hills.

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The coal strata at the former place are calculated to extend over one-third of a square mile, with an average thickness of from 3 feet 6 inches to 4 feet; and the yield of the coal, if it could be worked, is estimated at 447,000 tons. At the latter spot the area of the coal-fields is computed to extend over 0·394 of a square mile, and the estimated yield of the mineral is about 1,100,000 tons. The coal at Cherrá Púnjí and at Lá-ká-dong is in quality equal to some English coals; it is quick in its action, and consequently would generate steam rapidly; it cakes well, but gives out a large amount of smoke; it is fragile and easily broken. From the absence of that definite structure which produces the planes of division known to English miners as 'backs,' or joints in the coal, it breaks into unsymmetrical pieces, and consequently does not stow well. From its composition, quick combustion, and irregular cleavage, it is estimated to be from 5 to 7 per cent. inferior to good English coal; but as a gas-producing coal it is considered superior to English produce, both as regards quality and purity of the gas. It is also calculated to yield a good quality of coke. The market value of coal found in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills cannot be given with any approach to accuracy, owing to the expense of labour in the Hills and of carriage to the plains. The Station of Shillong, which consumes coal as fuel, derives its supply from the coal beds at Máo-beh-lyrkár, 18 miles distant, and the price is as high as £3 per ton. Lá-ká-dong is within six miles of Borghát, a village on an affluent of the Surmá, which is accessible all the year round by boats of 500 maunds, or 18 tons burden; but at present only coolie-carriage is available between Lá-ká-dong and Borghát.

The following is a brief history of the mines at Cherrá Púnjí in the Khásí Hills, and at Lá-ká-dong in the Jáintiá Hills:—Government holds a perpetual lease of the Cherrá Púnjí mines from the chief or Siem of Cherrá, conditionally upon the payment by Government of a royalty of two shillings and eightpence for every five tons of coal quarried and removed from the mine, and also upon the terms that the people of Cherrá shall be permitted to work the beds on their own account. In 1844 Government transferred its right to work the mine to Captain Engledue, then agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, for a period of twenty years; but in the following year this gentleman, with the permission of Government, made over his lease to Messrs. Osborne & Co., of Calcutta, who worked the mine for about two years,

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316 and in 1851 transferred their rights to Mr. W. Moran, of Calcutta.
648 The last lessee, however, preferred buying his coal to mining it; and
655 Government, seeing that the mines were not worked in a satisfactory manner, resumed the beds in 1859, and advertised them for letting. No person, however, has since come forward to work the mine. The Lá-ká-dong coal mines are the sole property of Government, which in the year 1848 leased the mining rights to Mr. B. W. Darley. This gentleman in the following year made over his lease to Messrs. Gisborne & Co., who soon afterwards transferred it to Mr. Moran. This gentleman surrendered his lease in 1859, when the mines were advertised for letting, but no one has since come forward and undertaken to work the coal. Between 1850 and 1856, while the mines were worked, about 5100 tons of coal were extracted for exportation.

In Mr. Allen's Report, dated 1858, it is stated that the coal of the Hills then found a ready sale at Dacca and elsewhere at 8 *dnnás* per *maund*; and that the average quantity exported into Bengal was about
[435] 25,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 12,500, or £1250. According to the local trade reports, this exportation would appear to have entirely died out; but the Bengal registration returns record 2965 *maunds* of coal, valued at Rs. 1482, or £148, at the rate of 8 *dnnás* per *maund*, as exported from Sylhet District in the year 1876-77. This supply was probably derived from the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills.

317 Limestone Quarries.—A limestone formation prevails more or less along the whole southern face of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills. The quarries are chiefly situated in the beds and on the banks of rivers and water-courses.

The limestone-quarrying localities in the Khásí Hills are the following twenty-six:—(1) Iha-wál; (2) Bor-syr-mai; (3) By-rang, *alias* Wáh-long; (4) Bor-púnjí; (5) Chún-jurá; (6) Dholai; (7) Dwárá; (8) Ichhámati; (9) Lúm-dih-long; (10) Lan-grin; (11) Long-long; (12) Máo-nai; (13) Máo-don; (14) Máo-kár-tillá; (15) Mohesh-khálí; (16) Máo-long; (17) No-kriá; (18) Páthárié; (19) Ram-seng-rai-skeh; (20) Soh-lai; (21) Silai; (22) Shellá; (23) Tanglá; (24) Tang-wai; (25) Um-song; (26) Um-tymí. In the Jáintiá Hills, the following seven:—(1) Chún-chhorá; (2) Lámápushí; (3) Lithóng; (4) Myrki Púnjí; (5) Nongthá-long; (6) Rúpsáth; (7) Rowai. The supply of limestone is literally inexhaustible. The wants of Calcutta and of the whole of Lower Bengal
648 have been satisfied from these hills from time immemorial. During
651 the year 1876-77 the estimated export was 1,600,000 *maunds*, valued
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at Rs. 480,000, or £48,000, and the revenue derived by Government from the quarries was Rs. 67,266, or £6726. In addition, the Khási Chiefs receive a revenue from this source of more than £2000.

IRON.—The smelting of iron was once the chief industry in the Khási Hills, and a considerable quantity of the metal used to be exported into Sylhet, both in the crude and the manufactured state. Recently, however, this industry has almost died out, in the face of the competition of the superior article imported from England and sold in the plains at a cheaper rate. The indigenous methods of extracting, washing, and smelting the ore have been minutely described by Professor Oldham. The following description is taken from Mr. Allen's Report, dated 1858, at which date the annual export of smelted iron was estimated at 45,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 67,500, or £6750, at the rate of Rs. 1. 8 per *maund*:—'The ore is said to be most abundant and of the best quality in the State of Khyrim, especially at the villages of Nongkrím and Noyandri. A few iron articles, such as *dáos* or hill knives, *kodális* or mattocks, spear and arrow-heads, are manufactured by the Khási smiths in the Hills; but the greater bulk of the smelted iron is sent to the plains for sale in circular lumps weighing about 4 or 5 *sers*. These lumps, called *bird*, sell at Chhaták for from Rs. 1. 4 to Rs. 1. 6 per *maund*. The best iron, however, which is beaten into bars called *peti*, sells for from Rs. 1. 10 to Rs. 1. 12 per *maund*. Khási iron is preferred to English, in consequence of its greater malleability. It is much used by the native boat-builders of Sylhet and the neighbouring Districts to make fastenings for the timbers of their boats. When brought into the market, it is more than half dross, and it is this circumstance which renders the iron trade unprofitable. The cost of carriage from the Hills to the plains is about 6 *dandis* per *maund*; and the traders, who are all Khásiás themselves, affirm that they get an average profit of only 2 *dandis* per *maund*.' The tables of trade for 1876-77 return no smelted iron as exported from the Hills, but Rs. 7000 of iron implements exported, against nails and ironmongery imported to the value of Rs. 18,000.

THE MANUFACTURES of the District, besides iron, consist of coarse cotton and *rundia* cloth, plain silver work, rude implements of husbandry, netted bags made of the fibre of the pine-apple, common pottery, and mats and baskets. With the exception of the

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with the exception of the
326 manufacture of iron, in which the master blacksmith often employs
462 hired labourers, the other industries are generally followed by
463 females in their own houses. No class of labourers are hereditarily attached to any manufacture in a manner that affects their personal freedom. The system of advancing money for manufacturing pur-
452 poses does not obtain in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills. The total
434 value of the manufactures of the District is stated to be between £2000 and £3000 per annum. No local manufactures are carried on by means of imported capital.

439 COMMERCE AND TRADE.—The external commerce of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills is chiefly conducted on the southern boundary, through the District of Sylhet. The total value is more considerable than might be expected, owing to the fact that these Hills practically possess the monopoly of supplying Bengal with lime, potatoes, and oranges. Other important articles of export are raw cotton, stick-lac, betel-nut and *pán* leaves, and bay leaves or *tezpát*. The exportation of iron, which was once large, has now almost ceased. The chief imports consist of rice, dried fish, cotton cloth, salt, and tobacco. On the whole, it would appear that the course of trade is about equally balanced. Trade statistics of more or less value are in existence. The earliest of such statistics are to be found in the Report of Mr. W. J. Allen, dated 1858. The information there given was based for the most part upon oral statements furnished by numerous native traders to Mr. Hudson, who then filled the office of Principal Assistant-Commissioner. It may be accepted as 'a fair representation of the state of trade in
439 the Hills' at that time. The imports and exports on the Assam
434 side were each estimated at about Rs. 15,000, or £1500. The trade with the markets in the Surmá valley was much larger. The total of the exports was valued at Rs. 700,000, or £70,000, giving a profit to the traders of Rs. 170,705, or £17,070. The chief items were:—Limestone, 1,700,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 306,000; potatoes, 50,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 125,000; oranges, 45,000,000 in number, value Rs. 78,750; smelted iron, 45,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 67,500; cotton, 12,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 42,000; betel-nuts, value Rs. 37,500; coal, 25,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 12,500. The total value of the imports was estimated at Rs. 350,000, or £35,000, being just one-half the value of the exports; the estimated profits are given as Rs. 44,325, or £4432. The chief items were:—Rice, 150,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 225,000; cloth of sorts, Rs. 25,000;

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fish, fresh and dried, Rs. 20,000; salt, 2000 *maunds*, value Rs. 10,000. For the last three years, from 1874-75 to 1876-77, elaborate tables of the external commerce have been drawn up by the successive Deputy-Commissioners in charge of the District. There is, however, no organized system of trade registration, and the Chief Commissioner of Assam has expressed the opinion that the figures 'cannot be at all relied upon.' The items vary greatly year by year, which is partly due to the different principles of valuation adopted. For the year 1874-75 the total exports were valued at Rs. 1,371,830, or £137,183, being just double the estimated value twenty years ago; the imports were valued at Rs. 1,359,300, or £135,930, being an increase in the same period of nearly forty-fold. The excess value of exports was Rs. 12,530, or £1253. In 1875-76 the exports were valued at Rs. 1,721,761, or £172,176; the imports at Rs. 1,617,455, or £161,745, showing an excess on the export side of Rs. 104,306, or £10,430. The tables for 1876-77, given in full on the following pages (pp. 238, 239), are quoted from the Administration Report for that year. They are based partly upon returns of trade at the marts of Bholáganj and Jáintiápur, and partly upon such approximations as could be supplied by local traders. The total value of the exports amounts to Rs. 1,603,530, or £160,353; that of the imports to Rs. 1,576,483, or £157,648, showing a balance of Rs. 27,047, or £2704, in favour of the District.

The export of limestone in 1876-77 was 1,600,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 480,000, at the rate of Rs. 300 for 1000 *maunds*. These figures show no increase in quantity, but a large increase in value, over the estimates of twenty years ago. The registration system of river traffic in Bengal shows a total export during 1876-77 from the two Districts of Sylhet and Cáchár of 1,056,159 *maunds* of lime and limestone, valued at Rs. 742,118 at the rate of 12 *dunds* per *maund*. The difference between these two sets of figures for the same year is very considerable. It may be partly explained by the consideration that the Bengal estimate of value includes the stone after it has been calcined and reduced to lime. The trade in limestone is chiefly in the hands of Messrs. Inglis & Co., whose depot is at Chhaták, on the Surmá river. The connection of this firm with the trade of the Khási Hills is of very long standing. The founder, Mr. Henry Inglis, was the son-in-law of

[*Sentence continued on page* 238.

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ESTIMATE OF IMPORTS INTO THE KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS FOR THE YEAR 1876-77.

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ARTICLES.	RATES OF VALUATION.	WEIGHT IN *maunds*.	VALUE.
	Rs. per *maund*.		Rs.
Brass pots and pans,	...	...	14,700
Country soap,	15. 0	1,200	18,000
Churá or crushed rice,	4. 8	650	2,925
Cloth of sorts,	...	...	158,000
Coral beads,	...	...	18,100
Cows and oxen,	...	...	5,600
Castor oil,	16. 0	125	2,000
Cocoa-nut oil,	25. 0	30	750
Dál or pulse,	6. 0	1,600	9,600
Eggs,	...	...	2,000
Earthenware and glass,	...	...	800
European stores,	...	...	16,600
Fish, and dry fish,	6. 0	35,900	215,400
Ghí,	35. 0	650	22,750
Grains,	4. 0	1,300	5,200
Gold,	...	...	6,500
Kerosene oil,	22. 0	125	2,750
Molasses,	7. 0	2,800	19,600
Nails and ironmongery,	20. 0	900	18,000
Oil,	18. 0	1,700	30,600
Onions,	6. 0	800	4,800
Poultry,	...	...	12,500
Rice,	3. 8	205,800	720,300
Salt,	7. 0	12,000	84,000
Sugar,	17. 8	800	14,000
Spices,	...	...	1,000
Silver,	...	...	4,200
Sheep,	...	...	2,400
Tamarind,	8. 0	26	208
Tea and coffee,	...	...	2,300
Tobacco,	13. 0	4,800	62,400
Atá or wheat flour,	7. 0	10,000	70,000
Wines and liquors,	...	...	26,000
Miscellaneous Native goods,	...	...	2,500
Total,	...	...	1,576,483

Sentence continued from page 237.]

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648
Colonel Lister, who filled the office of Political Agent from 1835 to 1854. In 1858, when Mr. Allen drew up his Report on the District, the trade both in lime and oranges was a monopoly of this Mr. Inglis. The stone is exported to Chhaták and other marts on the Surmá river, where some portion is burned and made into lime, and the remainder sold in the rough. The trade name in Bengal is 'Sylhet lime.'

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The export of potatoes in 1876-77 was 200,500 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 501,250, or £50,125, at the rate of Rs. 2. 8 per *maund*.

[*Text continued on page* 239.

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ESTIMATE OF EXPORTS FROM THE KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS FOR THE YEAR 1876-77.

ARTICLES.	RATES OF VALUATION.	WEIGHT OR NUMBER.	VALUE.
	Rs.		Rs.
Tezpát or bay leaves,	2. 8 per *maund.*	26,000 *maunds.*	65,000
Betel-nuts and *pán* leaves, ...	...	...	95,600
Black pepper, . .	1. 8 per *maund.*	500 ,,	9,000
Boats, ...	...	...	7,000
Cinnamon, ...	4. 0 per *maund.*	900 ,,	3,600
Chillies, ...	8. 0 ,,	2,600 ,,	20,800
Cotton, ...	6. 0 ,,	36,000 ,,	216,000
Fruits (jack and lime),	...	...	2,600
Garlic, ...	...	...	3,100
Hides, ...	...	...	1,200
Honey, ...	15. 0 per *maund.*	330 ,,	4,950
India-rubber, . .	40. 0 ,,	200 ,,	8,000
Iron implements, .	...	...	7,000
Limestone, . . .	300. 0 per 1000 *maunds.*	1,600,000 ,,	480,000
Oranges, ...	12. 0 per 3000.	9,400,000 No.	37,600
Potatoes, ...	2. 8 per *maund.*	200,500 *maunds.*	501,250
Pine-apples, . . .	...	...	8,000
Stick lac, ...	20. 0 per *maund.*	5,000 ,,	100,000
Timber, bamboos, and canes, . .	...	...	30,000
Turmeric, . . .	2. 0 per *maund.*	700 ,,	1,400
Bees-wax, . . .	55. 0 ,,	26 ,,	1,430
Total, .	...	...	1,603,530

Text continued from page 238.]

This price is about the same as it was twenty years ago, but the quantity has increased fourfold. The potato was first introduced into the Hills in 1830 by Mr. David Scott, who was then the Governor-General's Agent. 'No greater boon could have been conferred upon the people.' The local trade is entirely in the hands of the Khásiás themselves, and the larger portion of the produce is despatched direct to Calcutta. According to the registration returns of river traffic in Bengal, the export of provisions (including vegetables) from Sylhet in 1876-77 was 123,108 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 369,324, or £36,932, at the rate of Rs. 3 per *maund*.

The export of oranges in 1876-77 was 9,400,000 in number, valued at Rs. 37,600, at the rate of Rs. 12 per 3000. These figures apparently show a great decrease since 1858. At that time Mr. Inglis possessed the entire monopoly of the trade, by means of the leases which he held from the Khásí Chiefs of all the valuable groves. The annual produce of his groves was estimated at forty-five millions of oranges, having increased from eleven millions within the

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439 previous twenty years. The oranges, like the lime, were brought
648 down to Mr. Inglis' depot at Chhaták, where they were sold to
245 the dealers at the rate of about Rs. 1. 12 per 1000, or less than
434 half their present estimated price. It is stated in Mr. Allen's Report, that the Calcutta market was then chiefly supplied from the groves of Shella Púnjí and Bor Púnjí; the produce of the other villages was more perishable, and required to be sold in the neighbouring Districts. The fruit is known in Calcutta as 'Sylhet oranges.' The Bengal registration returns for 1876-77 show a total export from Sylhet of 64,505 *maunds* of 'fruit,' valued at Rs. 193,515, or £19,351.

439 The export of raw cotton appears to have greatly increased. In 1876-77 the total quantity exported was 36,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 216,000, or £21,600, at the rate of Rs. 6 per *maund*. Twenty years before the export had been only 12,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 42,000, at the rate of only Rs. 3. 8 per *maund*. The cotton is of inferior quality, with a short and woolly staple. It is chiefly consumed by the Sylhet weavers. The total registered export from that District in 1876-77 was only 4300 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 64,500,
434 at the high rate of Rs. 15 per *maund*.

439 The chief article of import now, as twenty years ago, is rice; for
[178] the hill-men have never grown sufficient for their own consumption,
[243] and the recent establishment of the Civil Station of Shillong has increased the demand. In 1876-77 the total imports of rice were estimated at 205,800 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 720,300, or £72,030, at the rate of Rs. 3. 8 per *maund*. Twenty years ago the imports were nearly as great, viz. 150,000 *maunds;* but the value was only Rs. 225,000, at the rate of Rs. 1. 8 per *maund*, or less than one-half the present value. The chief source of supply is Sylhet District, which sends its surplus to the tea gardens of Cáchár, as well as to these Hills, and also exported, in the year 1876-77, 214,000 *maunds* of rice and 433,100 *maunds* of paddy into Bengal.

The importation of fish (fresh and dried) has enormously increased. In 1876-77 the total amount was 35,900 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 215,400, or £21,540, at the rate of Rs. 6 per *maund*. Twenty years ago the value was only Rs. 20,000, but the quantity is not given. The preparation of dried fish is a flourishing industry in the adjoining District of Sylhet.

The importation of cotton cloth has increased in an almost equal proportion. The value in 1876-77 was Rs. 158,000, or £15,800, as

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against Rs. 25,000, or £2,500, twenty years earlier. The supply of 439
piece-goods is derived directly from Dacca.

A curious feature in the trade of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills is 441
the total absence of Márwárí or Jain merchants—an enterprising class, who are found everywhere else in Assam, even to the farthest corners of the Brahmaputra valley. There are a few Bengálí traders from Dacca, who do not take up a permanent residence in the Hills; but the great bulk of the business remains in the hands of the natives, who themselves reap the profits and are said to be keen at a bargain.

The principal markets at the foot of the Hills, on the Sylhet side, 443
are Bholáganj, Chhaták, Lakhát, Jaintiápur, Jafling, Pharálbázár, Máodong, Ponatit, Sónápur, Molághul, and Lengjut. Many of these are situated within the Sylhet boundary; but they are all frequented by Khásí and Synteng traders, who spend their whole time in passing from one market village to another. The markets or *háts* are held at regular intervals of eight days (for the Khásí week consists of this number), with the object of permitting the same people to visit the different places in rotation.

CAPITAL.—Such little capital as the people possess is either 454
employed in trade or lent out upon interest. In a few cases it is hoarded and allowed to remain idle. In small loan transactions, whether articles are pledged as security or not, the interest usually charged is one *dnná* in the rupee per month, or 75 per cent. per annum. In larger transactions the rate of interest per month varies from 2 to 3 per cent. Nothing is charged in the name of interest where lands are mortgaged as security for a loan, as the land is always made over to the mortgagee in lieu thereof, and he is only bound to restore it on payment of the amount lent. In petty advances for agricultural purposes, part of the produce is given by the cultivator at something less than market rates in repayment of the amount borrowed. Limestone quarrying is the only industry in 316
the District carried on by European agency. 648

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.—The revenue realized from the 648
Khásí and Jáintiá Hills has increased considerably in recent years. 651
As the Khásí States are treated as semi-independent, the receipts from that portion of the District are altogether insignificant, with the exception of the dues levied from the lime quarries. The larger part of the revenue in Jáintiá is derived from the house tax. For 1835, when British authority was first established in the Khásí Hills,

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the total revenue is returned at £77, and the expenditure at £2061. By the year 1860-61, at which date the Jáintiá Hills were included, the revenue was £2194, and the expenditure was £4151. There has since been a large increase on both sides of the account, and the District now more than pays for the cost of administration. The budget estimate for 1870-71 calculated on a revenue of £6290, and an expenditure of £7853. In 1875, according to the figures of the Deputy-Commissioner, the revenue was £13,383, and the expenditure £9692. The Assam Administration Report for 1875-76 returns the gross revenue at Rs. 108,018, or £10,801, of which only Rs. 342 was derived from the land, and the total cost of officials and police of all kinds at Rs. 64,731, or £6473, showing an apparent surplus of Rs. 43,287, or £4328. This increase of revenue is the more satisfactory, considering that the Khásiás still remain practically untaxed.

Sources of Revenue.—The main sources of revenue are the following:—(1) Mineral revenue; (2) House tax. The mineral revenue consists of the rents derived from the lime quarries, which are leased for terms of years to the highest bidder at public auction after due advertisement. All such leases have to receive the sanction of the Chief Commissioner. In 1876-77 the total revenue from lime quarries was Rs. 67,266, or £6,726, 12s., being a decrease of Rs. 7892 on the previous year. The house tax is levied throughout the whole of the Jáintiá Hills, and in the British possessions in the Khásí Hills. The settlement is made with the head-man of each village, who is termed a *dolloi* or *sardár*. It is his duty to submit every year to the Deputy-Commissioner or subdivisional officer a list of the number of houses in his village, accounting for all changes since the previous assessment. Thereupon the Deputy-Commissioner or subdivisional officer makes the assessment according to the rate fixed for the village, which is either R. 1 (2s.) or Rs. 2 (4s.) per house, and submits the proceedings for the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner. In 1876-77 the house tax realized a total revenue of Rs. 13,714, or £1371, 8s., of which Rs. 10,654 came from the Jáintiá Hills. The land revenue is derived from a few petty estates lying at the foot of the Jáintiá Hills, which were transferred from the rent-roll of Sylhet District on the adjustment of the boundary between the hills and plains portion of Jáintiá. The settlement of these estates was made in 1856-57, for twenty years, in the same manner as the settlement of the other Jáintiá

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estates. In addition, there are a few small holdings at Jowái, in the Jáintia Hills, which have been settled, after measurement, under the Assam Settlement Rules for a term of ten years. In 1876-77 the total land revenue amounted to Rs. 223, or £22, 6s., derived from 24 estates. Other small items of revenue are derived from fisheries, forests, stamps, and excise. In 1876-77 the rent of the fishery *maháls* was Rs. 3321, or £332, 2s.; forests produced Rs. 773, or £77, 6s., of which Rs. 652 represents fees on the exportation of timber from the Khási States to the District of Kámrúp. In the same year stamps yielded Rs. 16,121, or £1612, 2s.; but this total includes the sale of postage and telegraph stamps, as well as the sum credited for service stamps. Excise produced Rs. 1216, or £121, 12s. The stamps are sold at the Treasury; there are no licensed vendors. The excise laws are applied only within the limits of the Stations of Shillong and Cherrá Púnjí, and throughout the Jáintiá Hills. There are no licensed distilleries in the District, and the free manufacture of country spirit is permitted both in the dependent States and in British territory; what is manufactured is mainly for home consumption. In 1876-77 there were in all 18 licenses in force—4 for imported spirituous and fermented liquors, 1 each for *máhút* and *chandu*, 2 for *gánjá*, and 10 for opium. The Khásiás and Syntengs are not addicted to the use of intoxicating drugs, which is confined to the people from the plains residing on British territory.

COURTS, ETC.—In the year 1835 there were two Magisterial and Civil Courts in the District. By 1850 the number had risen to four, which continues to the present time. The maximum distance of any village from the nearest court is 65 miles, the average distance is 25 miles. In 1835 one European official was permanently stationed in the District; in 1850, two; in 1862 and 1869, again one. In the last-mentioned year the subdivision of Jowái was opened in the Jáintiá Hills; and there have since been two officers in the District, a Deputy-Commissioner at Shillong, and an Assistant at Jowái. The total number of magistrates is three. These figures, of course, are exclusive of the staff of the Local Government, which has been established at Shillong since 1874.

POLICE STATISTICS.—For police purposes, the Khási and Jáintiá Hills are divided into the three following *thánás* or police circles, with two outposts:—(1) Shillong, with an outpost at Nongpoh; (2) Jowái; (3) Cherrá Púnjí, with an outpost at Thária-ghát, at the foot of the southern hills.

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625 In 1835, when British authority was first extended to the Khásí
648 Hills, the cost of maintaining the police, from the rank of *jamádár*
465 or head constable upwards, was £45; and in 1840, £57, 16s. By 1860, when the Jáintiá Hills had been annexed, and a *thánd* opened at Jowái, the cost had risen to £480. In the year 1869 the strength of the regular police was 149 men in the Khásí Hills, and an additional 29 in Jáintiá.

In 1875 the police statistics of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills were as follow:—The force consisted of 1 inspectors on a salary of upwards of Rs. 100 a month, or £120 a year; 3 sub-inspectors and *13 head constables on a salary of* less than Rs. 100 a month; and 113 constables on an average pay of Rs. 9 a month, or £10, 16s. a year. The total pay of subordinate officers amounted to Rs. 8340 or £834 a year; and the total pay of constables to Rs. 12,168 or £1216, 16s. Certain contingencies brought up the aggregate expenses to Rs. 24,969 or £2496, 18s. The total number of men of all ranks was 131. As compared with the area and population of the District, these figures show one man to every 16·49 square miles, or to every 153 persons of the population, maintained at a cost of Rs. 4. 1 or 8s. 1½d. per square mile, and of 2 *dnnds* 10 *pies* or 4½d. per head of population. Of the total force, 1 officer and 13 men were employed to guard the jail, 3 officers and 23 men to guard the treasury and lock-up and to serve as escorts, leaving 14 officers and 77 men available for general duty.

648 CRIMINAL STATISTICS.—The District of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills,
692 like the other Hill Districts of Assam, is administered by political officers, under special rules framed under Act xxii. of 1869. Petty criminal cases are disposed of by the indigenous magistracy, and only cases of a heinous character are reported to the political officers. Similarly, civil causes are referred to arbitration, according to the indigenous system of village *panchdyats;* and the Deputy-Commissioner reports that this system, while affording equal justice to the people, tends to preserve them from the evil of litigiousness.

674 In 1874 the total number of cases reported by the police to the
178 political officers was 83, as compared with 63 in the previous year. In these 83 cases, 102 persons were arrested, of whom 71 were put on their trial; 61 persons, or 86 per cent., were convicted, and 10 were acquitted.

Though little serious crime exists in the Hills, yet the number of offences shows a tendency towards increase. The Report of the

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Deputy-Commissioner for 1876-77 states that in that year 168 persons in all were brought before the magistrates, the most common classes of cases being theft and house trespass. In the same year 89 civil suits were instituted, of which 83 were for money claims, 2 for immoveable property, 2 for restitution of conjugal rights, and 2 in connection with religion and caste. In the Political Court there were 31 cases tried during the year, of which 13 were civil and 18 criminal. In the latter class of cases process issued against 60 persons, of whom 20 were convicted and 40 acquitted. The details of the two following cases will illustrate the condition of social life in the District. The first was a case of grievous hurt. The Siem of Myl-liem had sent four persons to fetch a man named U Dorja, who had been selected to marry the Siem's sister. While on their way the messengers were attacked by a number of persons, evidently relatives of U Dorja who were opposed to the marriage. One of them was severely beaten, and died within twelve days from pneumonia. The offenders, numbering five in all, were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10 (£1) each, or in default to suffer fourteen days' imprisonment. The second case was one of oppression. It originated in a dispute about land, situated in a locality over which both the Siem of Nongklao and the Lyngdoh of Soh-iong claimed to exercise jurisdiction. The parties out of possession had gone to lay their complaint before the Siem, whereupon the Lyngdoh, with eight other persons, seized three of the complainants' kinsmen, ill-treated them, and kept them in durance with the object of having the complaint submitted to himself for adjudication. The Lyngdoh was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 50 (£5), and his companions were warned and discharged.

JAIL STATISTICS.—There are two jails in the Khási and Jáintiá Hills:—(1) The jail at Shillong, which is directly under the charge of the Deputy-Commissioner; and (2) the lock-up at Jowái, under the Assistant-Commissioner. It has been proposed to build a new jail at Shillong; the present structure consists only of bamboo huts, surrounded by a fence of the same material.

The following are the jail statistics for 1875:—Daily average number of prisoners, 40·91, of whom 1·07 were females; daily average number of sick, 1·42; number of deaths, 4, or 10 per cent. of the average daily strength. The total expenditure was Rs. 7430 (£743), or an average of Rs. 181 (£18, 2s.) per prisoner. This high rate of expenditure is due to the cost of rations at Shillong.

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697 In addition, a total of Rs. 899 (£89, 18s.) was expended on jail buildings. The manufacturing account shows cash receipts amounting to Rs. 60, against an expenditure of Rs. 29, or a net profit of Rs. 31 (£3, 2s).

797 871 648 EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.—The management of education in the Khási and Jáintiá Hills is entirely in the hands of the Welsh Calvinistic Mission, who first established themselves in the District about the year 1844. Though the Khásiás are naturally dull, and children are taken away from school before they have obtained more than a smattering of instruction, yet the perseverance of the missionaries has been rewarded by most satisfactory results. It is stated, in the Report of the Inspector of Schools for Assam for 1874-75, that 'a much larger proportion of the Khásiás know a little of reading, writing, and arithmetic than is the case, probably, in any other [562] District of either Assam or Bengal.' Female education, owing to the interest taken in this work by the wives of the missionaries, is also in a comparatively advanced condition. The missionary schools are largely subsidized by grants in aid from Government. The [212] teaching is conducted in English and in Khási, the Roman character being used in both cases.

The following paragraphs are compiled from the Education Report for 1874-75, above referred to. In that year the total number of schools open in the District was 73, attended by 1666 pupils. As compared with the area and the population, these figures show one school to every 84·34 square miles, and one pupil to every 85 inhabitants. As compared with the total number of males under ten years of age, the number of boys only attending school (1322) shows one scholar to every 13·1. The total expenditure on education in the same year was Rs. 17,722. 11. 3, or £1772, 5s. 5d.; towards which Government contributed Rs. 10,443. 9, fees and fines produced Rs. 228. 5. 3, while the remainder (Rs. 7051. 4) was expended by the Missionary Society from its own funds. The average cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 10. 10. 4, or £1, 1s. 3½d.

648 797 872 PRIMARY SCHOOLS.—With the exception of the schools at Cherrá Púnjí, Jowái, Shillong, and Shellá, all the schools in the Hills may properly be classed as primary, though several are returned as middle vernacular schools. On this principle the total number of primary schools is 64, in 45 of which a little English is taught. These 64 schools had 1226 pupils on their rolls at the close of the year 1874-75, and an average daily attendance of 819, comprising

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favourably with an average attendance of 694 in the preceding year. Of the pupils on the rolls, 132 were professed Christians, 36 Hindus, and 1038 Khásis. The total cost was Rs. 7107. 11. 6, or £711. 15s. 3d., towards which Government contributed Rs. 3146. The average cost of each pupil was Rs. 8. 3. 7, or 17s., of which Rs. 3. 14. 7 represents the share paid by Government. The chief failure among the Khásis is stated by the Inspector to be in arithmetic. Four primary scholarships were awarded during the year by the Deputy-Commissioner, on the recommendation of the secretary to the Mission. These scholarships are of the value of Rs. 3 a month, or £3. 12s. a year, and are tenable for two years.

MIDDLE ENGLISH SCHOOLS.—There were four schools of this class during the year under report, with 397 pupils on the rolls, and an average daily attendance of 243. The total expenditure was Rs. 4581. 13. 9, or £458, 4s., towards which Government contributed Rs. 1478. 8; the average cost of each pupil was Rs. 18. 13. 7, or £1, 17s. 8d.

FEMALE INSTRUCTION.—The Khási and Jáintia Hills is the only District of Assam, and one of the very few throughout all India, in which female instruction can be said to exist. During 1873-73 the number of girls attending the schools increased from 141 to 344, or by more than 42 per cent., showing 4·7 girls at school to every thousand of the female population, as opposed to ·4 in the Province generally. Of this number 24 were taught by Mrs. Hugh Roberts of Cherrá Púnjí, and 18 by Mrs. John Roberts of Shillá. During the year five of the girls were sent out as teachers, of whom one was placed in charge of the Shillong girls' school, which has 29 pupils.

NORMAL SCHOOL.—According to the classification adopted by the Education Department, the institution at Cherrá Púnjí, under the management of the Rev. Hugh Roberts, is described as partly 'Government normal' and partly 'aided English.' In 1874-75 the number of pupils on the rolls was 43, and the average attendance 39. There is a class of 10 girls, and of the 16 teachers turned out during the year, 5 were girls. The total cost was Rs. 4052. 6. 6, almost the whole being paid by Government. The average cost of each pupil was Rs. 103. 0. 3, or £10, 15s., of which Rs. 103. 0. 11 represents the share of Government. The following paragraph, quoted from Mr. Roberts' Report, illustrates what the missionaries have effected, and also the difficulties with which they have to contend:—'Cases have been brought to my notice during the past year

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of parents undergoing considerable privations rather than deny their children education; and in many families it has become a matter of ordinary routine to send the children to school. This only refers to the younger children; for after boys have attained their fourteenth or fifteenth year, their parents grow impatient for their pecuniary assistance. It is the custom among the Khásiás to insist very young children to work, so that they may earn enough to support themselves as soon as ever they can manage strap and basket. It is common for a boy to realize from ten *pice* to five *annás* a day for his parents; and it is considered sufficient sacrifice for the latter to have kept him at school up to his fourteenth year.'

ARMS STATES.—The following is a list of the nominally independent Khási States or Democracies, with the particulars of information that are available for each, taken from the Assam Administration Report for 1875-76:—

(1) Bhawal or Wahadi.—Name of Siem, U Ramsan Singh, age in 1876, 16 years; approximate population of State, 3893; estimated gross revenue—from market dues, Rs. 10; from *mukhlás* on lime quarry, Rs. 16,000—total, Rs. 16,010, or £1601; products, rice, millet, *betel* or bay leaves, black pepper, Piper nigrum; minerals, lime.

(2) Cherra or Sohra.—Siem, U Hijan Mitek, aged 40; population, 8060; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 7000; judicial fees, Rs. 150; *mukhlás* on lime quarry, Rs. 200; *nankárí* holding in Sylhet, Rs. 1300—total, Rs. 8650, or £865; products, cotton, millet, betel-nuts, *pán*, oranges, black pepper, Piper nigrum, chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey; manufactures, bamboo mats and bamboo baskets; minerals, lime, iron, and coal.

(3) Shella.—Wihadiddin, U Jirdi, aged 29, and U Rá Singh, aged 35, of whom the former can read and write both Khási and Bengáli a little; population, 5501; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 300; judicial fees, Rs. 400—total, Rs. 700, or £70; products, oranges, betel-nuts, and pine-apples; manufactures, bamboo mats and bamboo baskets; minerals, lime and coal.

(4) Kyrem or Nongkrem.—Siem, U Khar Singh, aged 30; population, 10,504; revenue—from pension allowed by the British Government, Rs. 1800; market dues, Rs. 3000; judicial fees, Rs. 400; *mukhlás* on lime quarry, Rs. 1500; contributions for State purposes, Rs. 1000—total, Rs. 10,100, or £1010; products, rice, cotton, millet, 'Job's tears,' cassia-bove, cinnamon, *sulphuret*

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(2 kind of turmeric), betel-nuts, Indian corn, *pán*, oranges, lac, potatoes, black pepper, Piper nigrum, chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey; manufactures, cotton cloth, *eriá* silk cloth, *dáo* or hill knives, *kodális* or mattocks, knives, hammers, crowbars, wedges, mats, and baskets; minerals, lime, coal, and iron.

(5) MYLIEM or MYLLIEM.—Siem, U Hain Mánik, aged 30; population, 10,266; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 230; State contributions, Rs. 1200; judicial fines, Rs. 225; forest rent, Rs. 15—total, Rs. 1670, or £169; products, cinnamon, sugar-cane, rice, 'Job's tears,' Indian corn, *sohphlang*, ginger, and millet; manufactures, *dáo* and baskets; minerals, iron.

(6) LANGRIN or LYNG-KIN.—Siem, U Bor, aged 25; population, 1867; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 150; *málikhud* on lime quarry, Rs. 700; forest rent, Rs. 60; fisheries, Rs. 50—total, Rs. 960, or £96; products, rice, millet, chillies, turmeric, and ginger; minerals, lime and coal.

(7) MARAMAW.—Siem, Amdhar Singh, aged 38; population, 6157, revenue—from State contributions, Rs. 400; market dues, Rs. 120; forest revenue, Rs. 55; *málikhud* on lime quarry, Rs. 350; judicial fines, Rs. 100—total, Rs. 1045, or £104. 10s.; products, 'Job's tears,' black pepper, Piper nigrum, chillies, bay leaves, honey, Indian corn, *sohphlang*, cinnamon, cowtchouc, sugar-cane, and ginger; manufactures, *dáos*, *kodális*, and hammers; minerals, iron and lime.

(8) MAOYANG or MAO-KYNG.—Siem, U Jít Singh, aged 33; population, 1238; revenue—from lime quarries, Rs. 252. 8; house tax, Rs. 9; rent of fisheries, Rs. 50; judicial fines, Rs. 100; State contributions, Rs. 90—total, Rs. 501. 8, or £50, 3s.; products, honey, bees-wax, cotton, rice, millet, 'Job's tears,' *sohphlang*; manufactures, mats; minerals, lime.

(9) MAO-SYN-RAM.—Siem, U Rammán, aged 29; population, 747; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 180; State contributions of an uncertain nature, Rs. 150—total, Rs. 330, or £33; products, potatoes, millet, chillies, turmeric, honey, and ginger; manufactures, mats; minerals, lime, coal, and iron.

(10) MALAI-SHIN-HAT or MALAISHAMAT.—Siem, U Shongram Singh, aged 33; population, 1199; revenue from market dues, Rs. 30; *málikhud* on lime quarry, Rs. 730; State contributions, Rs. 50; forest revenue, Rs. 30—total, Rs. 900, or £90; products, rice, millet, 'Job's tears,' ginger, chillies, turmeric, bay leaves, betel-nuts, and oranges; manufactures, mats; minerals, lime.

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(11) Mawlai—Siem, U Ram Singh, aged 48; population, 1308; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 25; State contributions, Rs. 100—total, Rs. 125, or £12, 10s.; products, rice, millet, 'Job's tears,' ginger, chillies, turmeric, sulphitary, Indian corn, sugar-cane; manufactures, mats.

(12) Nongkynrih or Nong-kas-rynsa.—Siem, U Ram, aged 48; population, 961; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 100; judicial fines, Rs. 30—total, Rs. 130, or £13; products, rice, 'Job's tears,' Indian corn, sulphitary, potatoes; manufactures, mats.

(13) Nongkilao.—Siem, Kine Singh, aged 32; population, 1504; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 600; State contributions, Rs. 800; judicial fines, Rs. 50; forest dues, Rs. 600; cost of State feed, Rs. 10—total, Rs. 1960, or £196; products, potatoes, rice, millet, 'Job's tears,' Indian corn, sulphitary, cucumbers, cinnamon; manufactures, cotton, *kaddis*, *dâos*, and cowries; minerals, lime.

(14) Nongspung.—Siem, U Sing Singh, aged 53 (died in 1870); population, 871; revenue, from commission on *mendâbi* in Khasi Hills District, Rs. 1000, or £100; products, rice, potatoes, honey, beeswax; manufactures, *dâos*; minerals, iron.

(15) Nongstoin.—Siem, U Hem Singh, aged 38; population, 7563; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 1000; lime quarries, Rs. 300; State contributions, Rs. 1500; judicial fines, Rs. 1000—total, Rs. 4400, or £440; products, lac, honey, beeswax, honey, cucumbers, bay leaves, rice, millet, 'Job's tears,' sugar-cane, chillies, sulphitary; manufactures, earthenware, pottery, cotton cloth, *dâos*, and spades; minerals, lime and coal.

(16) Rambrai.—Siem, U Amar Singh, aged 38, who can read and write Assamese a little; population, 1733; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 40; judicial fines, Rs. 150; forest rent, Rs. 250—total, Rs. 440, or £44; products, rice, 'Job's tears,' ginger, chillies, millet, and Indian corn; manufactures, cotton cloth.

(17) Jyrang.—Garôlu, U Mon Singh, aged 33; population, 581; revenue, *nil*; products, rice, millet, ginger, chillies, 'Job's tears,' cucumbers; manufactures, cotton cloth.

(18) Dwara Nongtyrshiang.—Garôlu, U Jasmi, aged 29; population, 378; revenue—from *mendâbi* on lime quarry, Rs. 1680; fees for cutting timber, Rs. 35—total, Rs. 1715, or £171, 10s.; products, rice, millet, oranges, betel-nuts, *pân*, and turmeric; manufactures, small mat; minerals, lime.

(19) Mao-mon.—Garôlu, U Mohor Singh, aged 29; population,

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...ers; revenue, ₹; products, millet, sorghum, handloom, jute fabric, pan-spice, chillies, and tea leaves; minerals, lime and coal.

These statistics give the following totals for the revenue District Board or Commission—Population, 78,990; revenue, Rs. 2,25,36 6, or £15,089, 13s.; of which Rs. 1,13,50 0, or £7,570, 0s., is derived from land revenue. The aggregate area of these States is therefore returned at 3,222 square miles.

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Subordinate Establishments.—The twenty-five local divisions which constitute the District Hills are reported as forming a separate Sub-division, under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner, whose headquarters are at the village of Jowki. The Subdivision dates from 1869, for which year the separate cost of administration is returned at £1,050. The following statistics, referring only to the District Hills, are taken from the Report of the Assistant Commissioner for 1876-77; for the rest, all information is included in the preceding sections of the Statistical Account, which apply generally to the whole District of the Hills and District Hills. In the year 1876-77 the land revenue of the Jowki Subdivision amounted to Rs. 1,13,50 0, or £7,570, 0s., of which Rs. 1,13,50 0 was derived from the house tax. The land value of the exports from the Subdivision was estimated at Rs. 1,21,50 0, or £8,100, 0s., including 1,500 maunds of raw cotton, valued at Rs. 1,50,000, and 3,000 maunds of lac, valued at Rs. 3,00,000. The land value of the imports was estimated at Rs. 3,03,000, or £20,200, chiefly cotton and woollen cloth from Bengal, valued at Rs. 2,50,000; silk cloth from Assam, Rs. 15,000; 1,500 maunds of rice, value Rs. 1,50,000; 1,000 heads of dried fish, value Rs. 10,000; 500 maunds of salt, value Rs. 37,500; 600 maunds of tobacco, value Rs. 30,000. These figures are compiled from returns submitted to the police stations at Jowki, on the Jhinjhan road, and from information collected from the chief traders at Jowki. They show an apparent balance of trade against the Subdivision amounting to Rs. 1,81,500, or £12,100, 0s. The population of Jowki and the surrounding villages is 4,000 souls.

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Municipal Institutions—Conservancy.—The climate of the Hills and District Hills is mild and equable. In Shillong the thermometer within doors ranges from about 58° in December to 70° or 72° in the hottest months. Out of doors the day both varies between about 48° in the cold months and 84° in May and June. A temperature higher than 84° is seldom recorded. During the three years ending

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192 in 1896, the highest maximum temperature was registered in the month of August, the lowest minimum in January. From November until the end of March the weather is dry and freezing. Sheet-ice lies upon the ground almost every morning in the months of December, January, and February. Shallow water occasionally freezes over, but snow never falls.

The rainfall at Cherrá Púnjí is enormous, varying between 500 and 600 inches per annum. The heaviest fall is in the months of June and July. As much as 30 inches has been collected in one day in July, and 1,350 inches has been registered as the total rainfall of that month. The average rainfall of the three years ending in 1896 is returned at 366·21 inches. It is affirmed that a total of 805 inches fell in 1861, of which 366 inches is assigned to the single month of July. This excessive rainfall can be readily accounted for by the abrupt manner in which the hills at Cherrá Púnjí rise from the plains on the south. The vapour-bearing breezes of the south-west monsoon, sweeping across the heated, flooded plains of Lower Bengal, suddenly strike against the hills. The vapour so it ascends gets condensed into fogs and mists, and finally, when it reaches the crest of the range, discharges itself in torrents of rain, unequalled by that recorded in any other part of the world.

At Shillong, which is only 30 miles north and a little higher than Cherrá Púnjí, the average rainfall is only about 65 inches, but between these two stations three higher ranges intervene, which deprive the clouds in passage of a considerable portion of their moisture. During the three years ending in 1896, the average rainfall at Shillong was 65·65 inches.

The rainfall at Jowái, a subdivisional Station in the Jáintiá Hills, 16 miles distant from the plains, holds a mid place between that at Cherrá Púnjí and Shillong, and is estimated at 130 inches in the year. During the three years ending in 1896, the average rainfall at Jowái was 142·60 inches; but in the last of these years there as much as 322·00 inches was registered, of which 130·50 inches fell in the month of June.

189 The District is liable to shocks of earthquake. In September 1869 considerable damage was done in the houses in Shillong by a shock which extended with great severity as far as Gauhátí, and several minor shocks were experienced in the year 1897-98.

164 192 Diseases, etc.—Generally speaking, the climate of Shillong is pleasant and congenial to Europeans. English children thrive

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remarkable, and there are few indigenous diseases of any kind. Malarious fevers of local origin are unknown, and cholera never prevails in the Hills except when directly imported from the plains. Notwithstanding the excessive rainfall, the climate of Cherrá Punjí also is pleasant and salubrious. The rainfall is confined in great part to the five months from May to the end of September. For the rest of the year the weather is mild and very equable, and in the winter months almost pleasanter than that of Shillong. 164 132

Small-pox is the chief scourge amongst the Khásis. The fatal- 164
ity of more than half the people are accused by the marks of this disease. Strenuous efforts have recently been made to introduce [751]
vaccination, and with some success. Within the past three years [643]
nearly 9000 children have been vaccinated. The number of vaccinations in 1876 was 1309, as compared with 1818 in the preceding year.

Dysentery and bowel complaints generally prevail to a considerable extent; and, as at most other hill stations in India, the English residents at Shillong occasionally suffer from these diseases. Disorders of the liver are also not uncommon, mostly affecting persons who have recently arrived from the plains, probably from unhealthy localities. When they have once passed through a short period of acclimatizing indisposition, most English residents at Shillong enjoy excellent health.

The moist country lying along the foot of the Hills, especially on the northern side, is extremely malarious; and people passing through, especially pedestrians who travel without comforts and expose themselves to great fatigue, contract remittent fevers and agues of a severe type.

Epidemics.—The following is a brief notice of some recent 731
epidemics. Cholera made its appearance in the Hills in May 1869, travelling from the direction of Jáintiápur, on the borders of Sylhet. It only showed its presence by a few sporadic cases from time to time until the 10th July, when the disease broke out in an epidemic form among the police and in the jail. The police and the prisoners were at once moved into camp, and communication restricted as much as possible. These precautions probably had the effect of preventing the spread of the disease at Shillong. The epidemic lasted a week; it attacked twenty-four persons, of whom fifteen died. From Shillong the disease travelled southwards, the people deserting their villages as the plague broke out. In the

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731 pre-eminently filthy villages on the Cherrá Púnjí plateau the epidemic appears to have found a fitting home, for it stayed among them for a period of nine weeks and a half. The civil surgeon reports the deaths at Cherrá Púnjí and the surrounding villages to have amounted to about 175 out of a total of 230 cases. During the year 1876-77 hooping-cough and small-pox were prevalent in an epidemic form. In the Jáintiá Hills small-pox is stated to have caused 47 deaths, chiefly during the months of June, July, and August. Some fatal cases of hooping-cough occurred among the Khási children in the village of Mánkhar, near Shillong. The only two cases of cholera reported were in the Jáintiá Hills.

16 {659 / 648} VITAL STATISTICS.—A general system of registration is not attempted throughout the Khási and Jáintiá Hills District. Statistics of births and deaths are only collected among the inhabitants of the Stations of Shillong and Cherrá Púnjí, and in the selected area in the vicinity of Jowái, which comprises the following seven villages:—Jowái, Nongkah, Nartiang, Mylieng, Amwí, Rollang, and Shangpúng. This selected area has a population of 12,504. Each village forms a distinctly-circumscribed community, in which the statistics are readily ascertained and reported by the *dolloi* or head-man. The returns may be regarded as extremely close to the truth, both for births and deaths; and they thus furnish an approximate statement of the health of the entire Hills. In 1874 the total number of deaths in the selected area was 551, showing a death rate of 28 per thousand; the number of births was 431, or 34·4 per thousand. The total population of all the places in which vital statistics are collected is 15,458 persons, among whom 428 deaths were recorded in 1874, showing a death-rate of 27·6 per thousand, as compared with 27·3 per thousand in the preceding year. The deaths were thus distributed—24 from cholera, 236 from fever, 58 from bowel complaints, 2 from snake-bite or wild beasts, and 108 from all other causes. The mortality from fevers was the highest recorded throughout the entire Province. On this the civil surgeon observes:—"There are few local sources of malaria in the Hills. Many of the deaths from fever were probably due to typhoid, induced by the use of impure water and by the filthy state in which the people live. There is no attempt at conservancy in a Khási village. In Jowái, a good specimen of the class, the lanes and pathways are strewn with excrement and house refuse. Drinking water is got from wells in the heart of the village, fed by the drainage of the

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surface soil of the hills upon which the houses are built.' Cholera is attributed to importation from the plains.

Sanitation.—It has already been stated that the ordinary Khási villages are absolutely destitute of any conservancy arrangements. The sanitary condition, however, of the Station of Shillong is described as 'good.' The natural drainage is excellent. Drinking water is obtained chiefly from hill streams, and on the banks of these streams conservancy regulations are enforced. The water is conducted into the town by means of an artificial water-course. Public latrines have been erected at suitable places inside the town. The staff of sweepers and *bihárís* keeps the roads and drains clean, and the surface generally free from pollution. The sanitary condition of the cantonment is reported to be very good.

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Charitable Dispensary.—There is one dispensary in the Khási and Jaintia Hills—at the Station of Shillong. It was first opened in 1870, and considerable additions have since been made to the building. During 1874 a total sum of Rs. 773. 8, or £77. 11s., was expended on new constructions and repairs, towards which the European residents subscribed Rs. 329. There is now accommodation for 10 male and 3 female patients. In that year the total number of in-door patients treated was 22, of whom 3 died, giving a death-rate of 10·23 per cent. The number of out-door patients was 919, or an average daily attendance of 7·8. Of the grand total of patients of both classes, only 31 were females. The largest number of cases are classified under the headings of fevers and constitutional and rabic. The total income during the year was Rs. 1398. 13. 9, or £139. 17s. 8d., of which Government contributed Rs. 900 for salaries, and an additional Rs. 300 as a special allowance. The European subscriptions amounted to Rs. 869, as compared with Rs. 33 subscribed by natives. The total expenditure was Rs. 1187. 13. 6, or £118. 16s., leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 410. 14. 3. The chief items were Rs. 480 for salaries of medical subordinates, Rs. 180 for servants' wages, and Rs. 100 for dieting of sick. There were 33 minor operations performed during the year.

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The people of the District have no system of medicine of their own, and no native practitioners. Their sole remedies consist in divination and incantation. The only indigenous native drugs are chiretta and wormwood. As stated in a previous paragraph, a small cinchona plantation was established by Government at Pangthúm in 1869.

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